

Lack of staff threatens casualty care, auditors say

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

STAFFING levels in hospitals' casualty departments are "well short" of recommended targets, leaving medical staff overstretched and patient care in jeopardy, according to a report from the National Audit Office published today.

Last year, the Joint Planning Advisory Committee, which advises the government on medical staffing, said there should be 72 new accident and emergency consultants in England within three years as a first step towards doubling the 200 consultant posts in that field by the year 2000.

The report said 20 such consultant posts remained unfilled because of a lack of suitable candidates. Separate research has shown that casualty consultants work an average 50-hour week, excluding time on call, the longest hours of any hospital specialty.

The audit office examined casualty departments at six hospitals, Leicester Royal Infirmary; University College Hospital, London; St James's University Hospital, Leeds; General Infirmary, Taunton and Somerset Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

The office concluded that consultant staffing in all six departments was often overstretched with inadequate

back-up from senior clinicians. "Increased provision of consultants and other experienced medical staff is essential as a means of improving accident and emergency services," it said.

At all departments, apart from Leicester, the number of doctors in relation to new patients fell short of those suggested by the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine.

In all cases, except Leicester, inexperienced senior house officers needing advice had to call in a consultant from home or seek advice by telephone. Many junior doctors found it hard to decide when to disturb the consultant, particularly when they knew that they would have to call the same person each time, the report said.

At Taunton and Somerset, until a few months ago, a lone consultant was regularly working more than 10 hours a day and was then on call for the rest of a 24-hour period and frequently called into the department.

The report suggests that as more casualty consultants be appointed, and rota systems be used to minimise times when inexperienced doctors lack immediate access to a senior doctor present in the department.

Worcester's accident and emergency department came in for particular criticism for failing to meet standards drawn up by professional bodies because it was on a split site. The department was over two miles from where specialities such as general surgery and anaesthetics were based. "Professional organisations commented that this extent of split-site working jeopardised the treatment of accident and emergency patients," the report said.

The NAO report showed that blood samples had to be sent by taxi between the two sites, often delaying treatment.

Infection lurks in operating theatres

Outbreaks such as that among young patients at Guy's Hospital are far from unusual, reports Alison Roberts

THE bacterium Klebsiella, which infected 11 children at Guy's Hospital, London, resulting in the deaths of two babies, is responsible for sporadic outbreaks of hospital infection.

Infectious outbreaks generally are relatively common in hospitals and a high percentage of the deaths of patients in intensive care are caused by infection which the debilitated body cannot fight. It is estimated that 10 per cent of patients in hospital are recovering from infections they have caught there.

Klebsiella exists in the normal flora of the stomach, flourishes in a moist environment and develops resistance to drugs in people who are receiving large quantities of antibiotics. The organism can be transmitted on the hands and may be found in food.

Professor Charles Hart, of the medical microbiology unit at Liverpool University, said: "Epidemics of Klebsiella have been reported all over the world. It is something that happens periodically in hospitals and it is usually no one's fault."

The King's Fund, the independent health policy think-tank, recommended earlier this year that every hospital should set up a committee to deal with infection and employ a control officer. Christine Pitt, of the fund, said that surveys of hospitals indicated that infection procedures were not good enough. She said: "The approach to monitoring of infection rates in hospitals is extremely variable and there is a tendency towards not very much being done at all."

"Hospitals are poor at collecting information. They should respond to outbreaks of infection by immediately tracking them back to the source and they should then share the lessons that they learn with everyone."

Doctors estimate that hospital infection costs the national health service well over £100 million a year. Doctors, nurses and other staff become carriers. Nearly 15 per cent of gynaecological patients become infected after surgery and more than 9 per cent of patients become infected after urological and general surgery.

Babies die, page 1



Baroness Blatch: "Schools have vital role in promoting spiritual development"

Schools given a year to reform religious syllabus

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS must implement mainly Christian religious education syllabuses within a year of the forthcoming education act or face intervention from Whitehall, local education authorities were warned yesterday.

The new deadline underlines the government's determination to guarantee a Christian framework for children's spiritual growth in the classroom, following widespread concern that authorities offer only bland multi-faith lessons.

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said: "Schools have a vital role in promoting pupils' spiritual and moral development.

We are determined to emphasise the importance of religious education and the moral and spiritual dimension of the curriculum."

A consultative document on religious education outlining

the proposals in last week's white paper has been sent to LEAs, all of which are expected to speed up adoption of syllabuses that reflect "the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian".

Two-thirds have yet to revise their arrangements.

Schools that opt out of local authority control will be able to hand-pick any syllabus adopted by an LEA and will be given increasing representation on local standing advisory councils on religious education as more schools become grant-maintained.

The fresh impetus given to old-fashioned religious education reflects pressure applied by groups including Lady Olga Mountbatten's Christian Call, as well as the resolve of John Patten, the education secretary, a committed Catholic who has emphasised the

moral aspect of education since he took office.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the consultative document, with its criticisms of LEAs, "does not meet the needs of our increasingly multi-cultural society".

Muslim groups called for greater sensitivity to Islamic interest. Tariq Sattar, chairman of the Muslim Parliament's education committee, said special classes should be available for Muslim children, on top of ordinary mainstream classes. Laurie Rosenberg, executive director of education at the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said a shift toward a nationally agreed religious syllabus would threaten representation of non-Christian faiths.

Bryan Appleyard, page 10

Leading article, page 11

Germans hold fire as EFA returns to drawing board

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY promised yesterday to stay in the development phase of the £2 billion European Fighter Aircraft programme, after compromises were offered to Bonn by the project's other partners, Britain, Italy and Spain.

Although Volker Rühe, the German defence minister, confirmed Bonn's intention to withdraw from the production stage of the aircraft, there was hope last night that a four-nation solution might be found by the end of the year.

Germany is contractually committed to spend more than £2 billion as its share of the development programme. Until yesterday's confirmation the Germans had been hinting privately that they might withdraw from the development phase.

Following a British initiative at a meeting of the four national defence ministers in Madrid, air force chiefs from the four countries are to carry out a review of EFA by October 31.

A steering committee represented by EFA companies from all four countries has

also begun a three-month study into costings of revised versions of the existing aircraft.

British sources indicated that they expect the four air chiefs to report back in October that aircraft is still needed because of the potential threat from the proliferation of sophisticated fighter aircraft and increasing instability in many parts of the world.

Julian Garcia Vargas, the Spanish defence minister, said the four had effectively agreed to work on redesigning of the plane. He added that Spain's economic circumstances would not allow it to proceed to the production stage of the project in its present form.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said afterwards: "We are very pleased with our German colleague's agreement to continue the development phase." Following a British initiative at a meeting of the four national defence ministers in Madrid, air force chiefs from the four countries are to carry out a review of EFA by October 31.

A steering committee represented by EFA companies from all four countries has



Rifkind: pleased with decision to continue

MPs warn Yard on King's Cross crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO London MPs have given a warning to Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, that vice, drug-dealing and violent crime in the area around King's Cross station are growing beyond the resources of local police and that the district could get out of control.

The MPs want Sir Peter to give more Scotland Yard help to the local police divisions. The letter comes after one police operation in the area led to 100 arrests for drug dealing and another last month to 100 motorists being stopped in one week for kerb-crawling. Despite those raids, police say that drug dealing remains common and that "crack", a cocaine derivative, is increasingly being sold. There are also 80 to 100 prostitutes regularly working in the area.

In their letter, Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, and Christopher Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, said they believed that crime in the area was too widespread and complex for local officers to contain it.

The MPs, who have met local police commanders, said the time had come for the Yard to accept the area as a Metropolitan problem.

The MPs said they recognised that action by other agencies was needed "if the

Scientists to deploy satellite on a string

Atlantis will test whether wire can conduct electricity in Earth's ionosphere, says Nigel Hawkes

The space shuttle Atlantis last night prepared for a space first — deploying a satellite on the end of a string.

Controllers at the European Space Agency were meanwhile puzzling over what to do about Eureca, a satellite released by Atlantis on Sunday, which remains in a precariously low orbit. The decision to try to boost it into its correct orbit was deferred while ESA studied data to try to discover what went wrong.

If nothing is done, Eureca and its load of crystals, seeds, shrimp eggs, and bacteria will re-enter the atmosphere and burn up. The original plan was for the satellite to be left in orbit until next spring, when it would be picked up by another shuttle mission. This will be threatened unless it can be boosted from 276 miles up to the intended 320-mile orbit.

Ground controllers fired

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yacht rescue foiled by radio 'chit-chat'

The organisers of Cowes Week yesterday criticised yachtsmen for frustrating the efforts of rescuers to save one of two competitors who died in gale-force winds by clogging an emergency radio channel with chatter. John Green, chairman of the Cowes Combined Clubs, said: "I deplore people misusing any of the radio channels, particularly channel 16. It is an emergency channel and it is very wrong for people to chit-chat on it." A crew went to the aid of Brian Walton, 35, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, who was washed overboard from the yacht *Mefisto*, was said to have been hampered in calling the coastguard by others using the emergency channel.

Mr Green said: "It is maddening to find people discussing their dinner parties and who they are going dancing with, but there is nothing we can do about it. It is the responsibility of the Home Office." Sue Hardwick, a spokeswoman for the regatta, said: "The two accidents were very unfortunate. There is no need to change the racing. Monday's conditions were not ideal but they were not truly horrendous." Dr Catherine Acland, 30, of Compton Abbas, Dorset, died after striking her head on the yacht *Valdemar*. Racing resumed yesterday as scheduled.

Race report and picture, page 22

Teenagers charged

Three teenagers were remanded in custody yesterday by magistrates in Croydon, south London, accused of murdering Ruhullah Aramesh, an Afghan refugee. Paul Hannon, 17, of Thornton Heath, south London, and two juveniles, aged 15 and 16, are jointly charged with murdering Mr Aramesh, who died on Sunday, two days after he was allegedly attacked on a petrol station forecourt near his home in Thornton Heath by a gang of more than 15 men. All three also face a charge of violent disorder and the 16-year-old faces two charges of grievous bodily harm with intent. The two juveniles were remanded until August 11 and Mr Hannon was remanded in custody until the same date. No application was made for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Boating victims found

Three bodies were recovered yesterday by rescue workers searching for seven victims of two separate boating accidents in the Irish Republic. The bodies of two young men were discovered by police divers on Blessington Lake, Co. Wicklow, shortly after 5pm. They were close to an upturned dinghy found the previous day after the men and two companions went missing while camping near the lake. The search was continuing for the other two men. All four were from Dublin and were aged from 18 to 21. Earlier, the body of a schoolboy aged 15 from Campile, Co. Wexford, was recovered from the estuary of Waterford harbour. A search was continuing for his brother, aged 13, and father, also believed to have drowned while fishing from their 18ft cabin cruiser.

Dead soldier named

The first British soldier to be shot dead by the IRA in Belfast in four years was named yesterday as Damien Shackleton, 24, a Guardsman from Blackburn, Lancashire, who was married with a son, 4. He died on Monday night after being hit in the shoulder and neck by gunmen who held a family hostage in their home and used it to ambush a patrol in the New Lodge area in the north of the city. Cecil Walker, the Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast North, described as sickening graffiti that appeared in the area awarding "Olympic" medals to those who took part in the attack, another shooting on Monday night and the car bomb attack in the city centre that injured 21 and damaged property worth millions of pounds.

Moore gallery dropped

Trustees and directors of the Henry Moore Foundation have dropped their fight to build a gallery at the artist's home. The foundation said yesterday that it would not appeal over the refusal of planning permission for a sculpture gallery at Perry Green, the 70-acre estate in Hertfordshire. However, the foundation will continue to argue for its proposals to build a study centre and make other alterations, for which permission was also refused. Mary Moore, the sculptor's only child, has campaigned against the foundation's plans from the outset. She argued that the proposed buildings were neither in keeping with her father's wishes nor did they fit in with the rest of the estate. An environment department inspector is due to hear the appeals next month.

Clue to girl's killer

Police believe that the mystery man whom schoolgirl Helen Gorrie, left, had arranged to meet on the night of her murder may have been on the run. Yesterday, officers interviewed several men without success, after finding a diary entry detailing the 15-year-old's plans for a late drive with "John", whom police believe to be a teenager. Helen was last seen on Friday. Her body was found near a community centre at Horndean, Hampshire, on Saturday.

LSE bid condemned

The London Residuary Body condemned the London School of Economics' offer for County Hall yesterday, saying that it should be rejected in favour of a Japanese group's bid to convert it into a hotel. The body, set up to dispose of the disbanded Greater London Council's assets, said that the school's £65 million bid was "not worthy of serious consideration". The school's offer is conditional on the sale of its present home in Aldwych. The body said that the LSE's estimate that it would raise £100 million from the sale was "highly speculative". The school said yesterday that its bid had been prepared at short notice and it had not been possible to produce an unconditional offer. It said its scheme for a new European university was "in the national interest".

Cancer drug hope

A discovery that could lead to the development of a new treatment for breast cancer has been made by scientists at the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital in London. The researchers have found that patients treated with the drug Tamoxifen, one of the most effective existing cancer treatments, produce a protein in the healthy cells of the breast that inhibits the growth of cancer cells. The protein, known as Transforming Growth Factor Beta 1, appears to be equally effective against different types of breast cancer, the researchers say in the American journal *Cancer Research*. However, the development of a synthetic version of the protein that can be given to cancer sufferers will take several years.

Hodgson leads chess

Julian Hodgson, of London, the reigning British chess champion and a grandmaster, holds the joint lead in this year's championships in Plymouth, Devon, after beating Simon Ansell, of Oxford, in the second round. Also unbeaten after two rounds are Jonathan Mestel, Aaron Summerscale, Simon Bibby and Susan Arkell.

Staff brutality puts future of secure hospitals in doubt

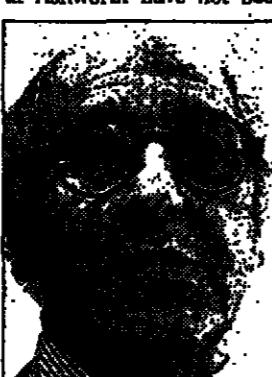
By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to re-examine the care of mentally disordered criminals in high-security hospitals after a report on Ashworth Hospital uncovered evidence of brutality and abuse by staff.

The report, published yesterday after a year-long enquiry into provision at Ashworth, on Merseyside, described the brutalising regime at the hospital arising from an "uncaring and demeaning attitude to patients" that led to "harassment and some physical bullying". Although only three complaints of maltreatment were investigated in detail, the report implied that there was justification in more than 100 complaints submitted. Doctors as well as nurses were criticised.

A nurse and a ward manager were found guilty of gross misconduct and dismissed a fortnight ago after using a pig's head, with a tie around its neck and a thermometer in its mouth, to taunt female patients.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, who headed the enquiry and is chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission, said in a covering letter to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, that it could not be



Sir Louis: urges review of special hospitals

'Friendly' assistant sacked by store

A SHOP assistant described by her boss as eccentric for the way she dressed and spoke, claimed yesterday that she was sacked from her job for calling customers and staff "babe" and "darling".

Anne Sabine, 46, of Reading, Berkshire, said Edward Jackson, managing director of Jackson and Sons department store in Reading, called her into his office and said she was "upsetting his ladies" by the way she spoke to people. He asked her when she wanted to go and she said immediately.

Mrs Sabine, who has five children and usually dresses flamboyantly in bright colours, said she received two formal warnings for being too friendly to customers and staff "babe" and "darling".

The letter read: "The use of words such as 'babe' and 'darling' are strictly forbidden and unless you immediately desist, your employment will be brought to an end." A week later came the summons from Mr Jackson to arrange her leaving date.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "Within ten minutes of her starting work, my personnel assistant came to see me and said, 'Who is that woman who has just called me babe?' She seemed totally incapable of changing her ways. I am afraid the simple answer is she is an eccentric."

But Mrs Sabine said: "I have never been sacked before and to sack me for the way I communicate — I have always been praised for my work — is ridiculous."

She said she had years of retail experience, including a post as a manager in London's Oxford Street, and had references praising her skills.

Riot-torn prison to be put out to tender

By RONALD FAUL

STRANGWAYS prison in Manchester is to be privatised, the Home Office confirmed yesterday. Tender documents will be issued later this year for the private management of the jail, which is undergoing a £62 million refurbishment programme after being wrecked by rioting two years ago.

Brian Cation, vice-chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said yesterday it was a scandalous misuse of public money to privatisate jails and put money into the hands of profiteers.

The refurbished Strangeways ought to be a monument to the future of the prison service as defined by the Woolf enquiry. "It seems it will end up a monument to the government's insistence on market forces, even to the extent of earning profit out of the demise of people," he said.

The Wolds remand centre in Humberstone is the only prison to have been contracted out to the private sector.

Tenders for Blakenhurst prison in Hereford and Worcester have been invited. Both are new institutions. Strangeways will be the first established prison to undergo "marker testing" and the first for which the prison service has been invited to tender. The Group 4 security firm won the Wolds contract.

Strangeways was wrecked during 25 days of rioting in 1990, when it was severely overcrowded by 1,200 prisoners in its 744 cells. Four wings and the hospital are now occupied by up to 350 inmates and another five wings are planned to reopen next year.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.</

Peugeot's success is your success. (Here's a £250 cheque to help you celebrate.)

 Peugeot's sales have grown by 11% this year, despite the market average being down by 4%.

That's because more people have bought our cars than ever before. (Who can resist Peugeot's winning formula of great cars, great prices and great deals?)

So, as a way of saying "thank you," we're offering a £250 cash-back dividend to Peugeot buyers this August.

 **This £250 cash back offer applies to all petrol versions of the 106, 205 and 309 registered in August* except summer specials and GTIs.**

All you have to do is 'phone free on 0500 500 250 now to register for your £250 dividend voucher and then hurry down to your Peugeot dealer.

 And, on top of it all, the £250 cash-back offer is additional to our other attractive purchasing schemes including 0% finance.

So, why not pick up the phone and join in the celebrations?



PEUGEOT'S WINNING FORMULA THIS SUMMER.

THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

*THE £250 OFFER APPLIES TO ALL PETROL VERSIONS OF THE 106, 205 AND 309 REGISTERED FROM AUGUST 1ST TO AUGUST 26TH INCLUSIVE EXCEPT 106 1.1i GRADUATE, 205 2.0i RALLYE AND 1.6-1.9 GTi, 209 2.0i, 2.0i STYLE, 209 1.6i, 209 1.6i GOODWOOD AND TO ALL UK RESIDENTS EXCLUDING CARS REGISTERED UNDER THE MOBILITY SCHEME, NATIONALLY NEGOTIATED FLEETS AND LEASING COMPANIES. TAX-FREE AND EMPLOYEE SALES AND IN IRELAND WHERE DIFFERENT OFFERS APPLY. PSA FINANCE PLC, VERNON HOUSE, SICILIAN AVENUE, LONDON WC1A 2QZ. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL PEUGEOT DEALER. OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS (OVER 18s ONLY). A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED.

1000-150

Mackay
tough
controls

Shut the de
bt collect

Slaying the

Government urges car park operators to improve security

CAR park operators were urged yesterday to tighten security after a report criticised their failure to introduce measures to cut the theft of vehicles.

The big operators, including National Car Parks, London Underground and British Rail, are to be called to the Home Office and told to introduce tough crime prevention measures in car parks. The campaign will be backed by a "secured car parks" scheme to be launched next month. Those car parks that meet a number of security standards, including 24-hour closed-circuit television surveillance, regular security patrols and good quality lighting, will be given a gold or silver award.

In an effort to encourage the public to make more demands on operators, who in some areas have a virtual

monopoly on parking, insurance companies are to be pressed to introduce penalty clauses that would make motorists liable for some of the loss if they parked their vehicle in a park with sub-standard security.

Michael Jack, a Home Office minister, said: "Car thieves can have rich pickings in poorly managed car parks. In some areas almost half all recorded theft of and from cars takes place in car parks. He said the level of crime was not acceptable and motorists had a right to expect a minimum level of security for the fees they paid."

A Home Office study of 14 car parks in Marylebone, central London, found that Chilham Street park had the worst record for theft from vehicles. It had a crime rate of 21 thefts from cars per 100 spaces in 1991. Portman

Richard Ford reports that an ever increasing number of motorists are falling prey to vehicle thieves

Square had 16.3 and there were 15.6 at Cavendish Square and Bilston Towers parks. The rates are greater than, or at least equivalent to, any reported from high-crime housing estates.

The car park at Redbridge Underground station in Essex had the worst record for theft of and from cars in 1991, with crime rates of 16.7 and 22 per 100 spaces respectively. The survey of stations at the east end of the Central Line and BR Kent Link lines between London and Sevenoaks and London and Dartford also found that thefts of vehicles at BR's Barnethurst station in Bexleyheath were 16.7 per 100, while thefts from vehicles at Chislehurst station were 21.4 per 100 spaces. Other Underground stations with poor records were Beckton Hill and South Woodford in Essex.

The Home Office study said unmanned car parks presented the highest risk, with long-stay commuter car parks especially vulnerable. Manned exits helped control car crime, but in multi-storey car parks they had little effect on theft from cars. The presence of businesses near car parks and intensive staffing also helped to cut crime.

The British Crime Survey found that 116,000 of total car thefts and 180,000 thefts from cars in England and

Wales occurred in car parks. In the Metropolitan police district, 14 per cent of reported thefts of and 18 per cent of thefts from vehicles took place in car parks in 1990.

The government's move to focus attention on car park

to be against legislating to provide easier redress and compensation for motorists who suffer personal injury have their cars stolen as a result of inadequate security in public car parks. The Consumers' Association believes that notices stating that car parks do not accept liability in respect of any loss or theft from vehicles are unreasonable under the Unfair Contract Terms Act, but it admits that to gain compensation a person has to prove negligence, which is difficult.

The AA and RAC want car parking covered by the Fair Trading Act. In 1985 the Consumers' Association referred NCP to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the grounds that the company's dominance of commercial car parking was against the public interest. The referral failed on technical grounds when the Office of Fair Trading ruled that in leasing car parking space, NCP was not selling goods or providing a service.

Burglaries and vandalism at petrol stations are costing an estimated £12 million a year, according to a survey published yesterday. The most widespread crime was motorists driving off without paying for petrol, card fraud and the use of forged bank notes.

A poll of 604 forecourts carried out by Gallup found that 84 per cent had experienced some form of crime during the past 12 months and 15 per cent had suffered a robbery. Half the robberies had involved an assault on staff.

Preventing Car Crime in Car Parks (Home Office Police Department, London)

MICHAEL POWELL

Mackay proposes tough statutory controls on bailiffs

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor's Department has called for tough statutory controls on bailiffs because of concern about the tactics of some private operators.

A departmental consultation paper published yesterday says regulation of civil enforcement agents such as sheriffs, county court bailiffs and certificated and other private bailiffs is patchy.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, wants minimum standards of competence and conduct, underpinned by disciplinary sanction. He is inviting views on the best way to achieve a new regulatory framework. He believes all civil enforcement agencies should be subject to

formal controls over their appointment.

The report says: "It is not always clear where the lines of accountability lie. So at one end of the spectrum, county court bailiffs are subject to a high level of control by the district judge at all stages of their careers. Private bailiffs are subject to no formal controls on their organisation and management."

The review will consider the law on certain aspects of bailiffs' work: use of force, controls over fees, what goods they may seize, the procedure for seizing goods, the time when this may be done, and how the sale of goods may be carried out. An important

question will be how much the state should be involved in regulating bailiffs' activities.

Widening the state's role would place an extra burden on the taxpayer. Alternatively, the state could give up its role as employer of county court bailiffs and introduce such arrangements as requiring all civil enforcement agents to belong to a professional body with regulatory powers over members.

But the paper says the state has a duty to set up an appropriate system of organisation and management to regulate debt-enforcement agencies. It must "ensure a credible system of enforcement is available to creditors through which they can enforce their debts". It must also set by statute the rights and duties of creditors, debtors and civil enforcement agencies in key areas of their work.

The paper, on which comments are invited by October 30, canvasses seven possible options for change: retaining current organisational arrangements but reforming the governing law; leaving sheriffs alone but reforming the civil enforcement agents; improving or extending regulation of bailiffs by extending the court certification procedure that applies to some enforcement agents; self-regulation by professional bodies and selling them to offset debts should be abolished".

Senior environment department officials have completed consultations with bailiffs and local authorities on how debt recovery procedures could be tightened. Government sources said it was likely that every bailiff would have to be certified by a county court and be required to work within clearly defined guidelines. These could prevent them from moving necessities.

At present, virtually anyone can set themselves up as a private bailiff and the common law governing their activities is unclear. Often, goods worth far in excess of the money which has to be recovered is seized by bailiffs and then sold at auctions for a fraction of their market value.

One man had a car which was valued at £700 sold by bailiffs at auction for £20. After the bailiffs' expenses were charged to the debtor, only £7.35 was credited towards his debt.

The National Consumer

'Shut the door on debt collectors'

Tim Jones reports on claims by consumer groups that bailiffs trick their way into homes and reject reasonable repayments

TWO of Britain's main consumer watchdogs yesterday criticised the Lord Chancellor's proposed review and said that the system of using bailiffs to collect debts should be abolished.

Every week, offices of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux receive complaints from people who have suffered at the hands of bailiffs.

Nichola Simpson, the association's head of policy and communication, said: "We are very concerned by the use of deception practised by bailiffs to gain entry into houses and by their refusal to negotiate payments by realistic instalments.

"Some gain entry by pretending they are from the council or by saying that they want to use the lavatory. Others claim illegally that they can gain entry into properties without the permission of the tenant."

Ms Simpson said that debt enforcement procedures should take place in one court and different mechanisms for debt, such as orders against earnings or benefits, should be implemented. "Eventually, the whole practice of employing bailiffs should be abolished."

The National Consumer

Optimism over film industry

BY JOE JOSEPH

REAL ale enthusiasts have an undeserved reputation for owning huge beery bellies, bushy beards and open-toed sandals. In truth very few of them wear sandals and few would benefit from a Playtex corset.

Camra, the Campaign for Real Ale, celebrated a twenty-first birthday yesterday opening a five-day-long beer festival at the Olympic Exhibition Hall in west London. The vast cavern normally

filled by Ideal Home exhibits of swish silent-flush lavatories or of leggy women draped across Boat Show yachts was filled instead by a 200-metre-long bar and legless women anxious to make their way round the 310 ales on draught. 20,000 gallons in all.

The doors opened to the public at 5pm, minutes after Camra's judging committee had voted Woodforde's Norfolk Nog Britain's new champion brew. But it didn't impress everyone at the bar.

"I don't think it's well balanced," said Neil Bain of the brewers Bass. "It's quite harsh." Big brewers such as Bass feel that they are sneered at by the Camra committee simply because they are big and commercial.

Gary Jordan from Bass said the beers entered into the competition had been pampered specially for the competition. Bass entered the same sort of casks that its regular customers were given.

Gordon Hannah, who is

managing the section of bar serving the new champion beer at £1.50 a pint, thought it had "a nice hoppy taste and a lovely sweetness about it".

Michael Jackson, a beer pundit and one of yesterday's judges, who rarely gets mistaken for his pop namesake, said the beers entered into the competition had been pampered specially for the competition. Bass entered the same sort of casks that its regular customers were given.

Within ten minutes of opening the biggest bar in the world was full of beer

enthusiasts ordering ales that sounded like medieval curses. One of the politer pints was called Robin Hood's Old Fart. The Times' tasting team decided that it didn't even smell very nice, let alone taste good.

We settled down with some Hop Back Summer Lightning and joined the pub scene: skittles, sausages, enthusiasts flicking off new finds in their British real ale books, a tombola, a bar rock band, a bar mat shop and several dart boards.

Slaying the jargon dragon

BY PHILIP HOWARD

THE Plain English Campaign today launches another attack on gobbledegook with National Plain English Day, putting emphasis on consumer jargon.

Chrissie Maher, the working-class Liverpoolian grandmother who founded and directs the campaign, said: "The recession means that businesses are going bankrupt and houses are being repossessed from classes of people to whom this has not happened before. The stigma is such that they are ashamed to ask their friends what the difficult legal jargon means."

Members of the campaign have invited MPs, councils and trade unions to join their demonstration in Parliament Square this afternoon and to hand out orange gobbledegook stickers that can be attached to documents with small print, long sentences, unintelligible jargon or other traps for the consumer. Leaflets

Maher: stigma of asking for help

lets about housing, mortgages, insurance, medicine and other consumer goods are the main culprits.

Since Mrs Maher founded the campaign 13 years ago, it has consistently made headlines, and now makes enough money to support a staff of ten. They raise funds by advising and helping firms and official bodies to write their documents in jargon-free

English. Mrs Maher, who did not learn to read and write until she was 16, is continually looking for a government minister or backbench MP to sponsor a plain English bill, similar to those in many American states, compelling official and commercial documents to be written clearly.

Much has been done in the past 20 years to simplify official jargon and deflate gobbledegook. Ultimately some concepts, such as the quantum theory and many of the windier and evanescent notions of economists, are too complicated to be translated into language that Everyman and Everywoman can understand. One man's gobbledegook is another man's plain English and another man's oversimplification.

Not all human beings are built to understand everything. But there is enough pretentious and deceitful gobbledegook in The Last Emperor

to creation this year of the British Film Commission to encourage film making in Britain should be followed by formation of an export agency, based on the French model, to market films abroad, he added.

□ Sir Richard Attenborough's successor as institute chairman in January is to be the film producer Jeremy Thomas, whose credits include

the 25-mile project. The creation of a feasibility study for the 25-mile project.

Doctor appeals
Dr Helen Zeitlin, a former consultant at Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, near Birmingham, will begin an appeal today against being made redundant. She will claim that she was dismissed after publishing fears about nursing shortages endangering patients' safety.

SIEMENS

INSITA ASP
The intelligent hearing aid helps separate the sound from the noise.

For many people, nothing is more irritating than an ordinary hearing aid which amplifies everything indiscriminately.

Because if background noise gets louder just as much as foreground sound, it's not easier to pick out the things you really want to hear.

A Siemens INSITA ASP® helps you to do just that. Its dual channel amplifier boosts the high frequency sounds (like speech or birdsong), but reduces the lower frequencies (background noise like aircraft or traffic).

Perhaps most remarkable is that Siemens has packed all this clever technology into a tiny in-the-ear instrument!

To find out more about how the INSITA range can help you, simply telephone or post the coupon today.

Call FREE of charge 0800 373142 (Business hours only).
Please post me more information on the INSITA Hearing Instrument.

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel no. _____

Siemens Hearing Instruments Ltd, Cromwell Court, New Street, Aylesbury HP20 2PB Telephone 0299 27446.

A better life through clearer hearing

General puts Soviet terror victims at four million

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian media yesterday reported what appeared to be authoritative figures for those "legally purged" during 70 years of Communist party rule. Nearly four million citizens were tried for state crimes in the former Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990, Tass and *Izvestia* said after carrying out a joint interview of Major General Anatoli Kravushkin, a senior figure in Russia's security service.

The new figures coincide with an announcement that up to 2,000 special officers are to advise the Russian procurators' department on the rehabilitation — more often than not posthumously — of the remaining victims of the Soviet dictatorship. According to the general, 3,853,900 people were "tried for state crimes in the Soviet Union". He further stated that 827,995 of them were executed by firing squads.

But are the figures accurate? Although they help to fill out the picture of what must have been, for millions of Russians, Ukrainians and other Soviet peoples, miserable and murderous years, do they account for all the victims of Soviet terror campaigns? According to many historians, both here

Civil rights cardinal dies at 93

FROM REUTER
IN PRAGUE

CARDINAL Frantisek Tomášek, the former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Prague who championed religious and civil rights during four decades of communist rule, has died in Prague aged 93, the official news agency CSTK said yesterday.

He helped guide Czechoslovakia towards democracy in 1989, playing an important role in the overthrow of the communist government when he publicly supported anti-communist protesters. He was subjected to years of harassment by communist authorities who ruthlessly suppressed the Roman Catholic church. At the age of 85, he began confronting the Communist party openly and became one of Eastern Europe's leading proponents of religious freedom.

He repeatedly took the party's task for restricting the freedom of priests, limiting the number of seminarians and discriminating against Catholics in schools and at work. In March 1989, Cardinal Tomášek joined members of the Charter 77 human rights group in calling for the release of the jailed playwright Vaclav Havel — later to become Czechoslovakia's president — and other dissidents.

He became Apostolic Administrator of the Prague archdiocese in 1965 and was appointed a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1977. In March 1991, at the age of 91, he was given permission by the present Pope to retire as Archbishop of Prague.

Obituary, page 13

Anguish in Venice over gondola death

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

COUNCILLORS in Venice yesterday in an attempt to create traffic rules for the city after an American woman tourist was swept from her gondola by waves from a motor launch and drowned.

Newspapers reported that the authorities are likely to try to shift some of the main routes used by public motor launches away from water immediately surrounding St Mark's Square after the death of Vivian Ester Levi, 65, on Sunday. The gondoliers are up in arms over the incident, not least because they have been complaining for months about the danger from the motor launches some of which career round the lagoon at high speed. Recently the pilot of the launch used by the mayor of Venice was fined by police for speeding.

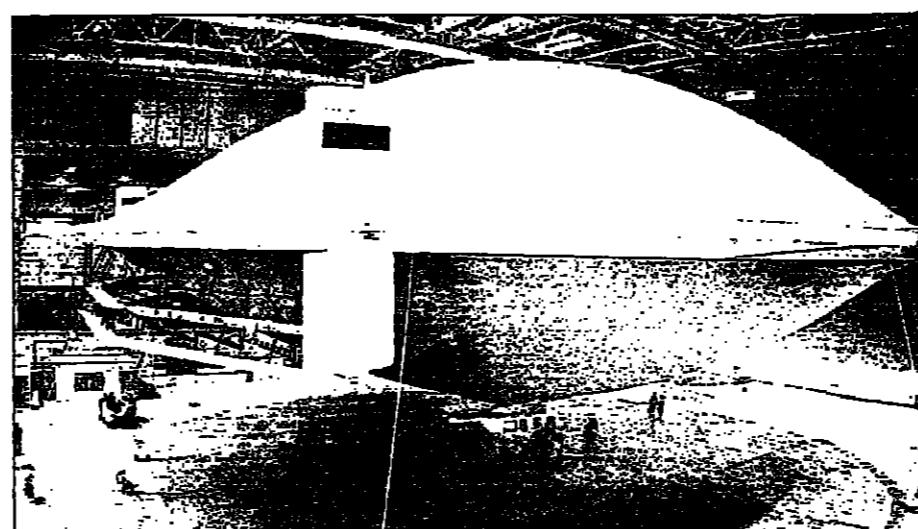
Russia seeks lift-off for its flying hotel

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT,
AIR CORRESPONDENT

A GIANT "flying saucer" which could be used as a cruising hotel, mobile hospital or emergency evacuation vehicle is nearing completion in Russia.

A prototype of the natural gas-powered "Thermoplane" is being tested at the Aviastar aviation complex in Ulyanovsk, and the first full-scale production model could be on sale in 1995. Russian salesmen plan to disclose details of the craft — known as the ALA600 — at next month's Farnborough air show. President Yeltsin has pledged state support for the project after marketing research showed there could be demand from around the world.

The Soviet government began funding the secret project in 1989 through its military budget, in the hope of developing a heavy aircraft capable of transporting equipment to logging, mining and construction projects in the far north of the country. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian aircraft designers realised they had to make their projects commercially acceptable. They therefore began looking



Flight to the future: the giant "Thermoplane", resembling a flying saucer, grounded in its hangar at the Aviastar complex in Ulyanovsk, Russia

at alternative uses, and received support from the eye surgeon Svetoslav Fyodorov, who enthusiastically drew up plans to take teams of surgeons to remote parts of the world in the fully equipped hospital the "Thermoplane" would be able to transport. Now funds are being sought from the United Nations to make the project a reality.

Tour operators and hoteliers around the world are

being privately contacted to see if they would be interested in leasing the craft as a flying hotel. Other international bodies have been sent details of the "Thermoplane" and asked to come up with suggestions for its use. One being looked at is the creation of an emergency evacuation vehicle which could land near the sites of natural disasters and pick up victims.

The "Thermoplane" is basically a giant airship envelope which is partly filled with helium and also natural gas. The hot air from the engines is used to heat the natural gas to provide additional lift and eliminate exhaust.

According to the next issue of *Jane's All The World's Aircraft*, the aircraft will be able to fly at about 50 miles an hour and at a height of just under 7,000 ft. It will have a range of 5,000 miles.

PEOPLE

Broadway blues for Trump's companion

Maria Maples got her first bad review for her Broadway debut in the hit musical *Will Rogers Follies* even before her scheduled first appearance. John Simon, the New York magazine critic, had advised theatre-goers a week earlier to see the musical before the companion of Donald Trump, the millionaire American developer, took over the role of "Ziegfeld's Favourite" from Cady Huffman. The critic said Maples "studied mostly at the Donald Trump Academy and surely cannot hold a candle to Miss Huffman — and I'm not just talking about the disparity in height." Mr Trump countered: "It's inconceivable that a man could give a review before he has even seen her in the musical."

New Zealand's prime minister, Jim Bolger, briefly joined his country's poor and needy, making an unannounced and unpublicised visit at the weekend to a Wellington soup kitchen. His wife, Joan, helped with the dishes.

Adam Rich, 23, the former

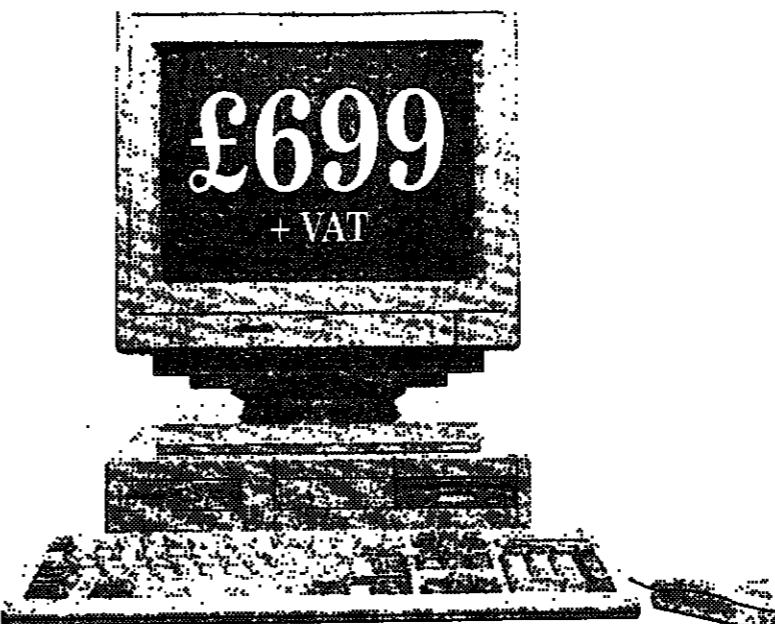
The veteran Chinese dissident Wang Ruowang, 74, who was kicked out of the Communist party twice and jailed after the 1989 pro-democracy protests, said in Shanghai that he would leave for the United States to take up a one-year invitation from Columbia University.

The Olivetti PCS 386SX.

If you find a price

to match this, you'll find

the product won't.



At £699 + VAT (£799 + VAT for the colour screen) you might expect to sacrifice some of the advantages of buying from Europe's largest personal computer manufacturer.

But with Olivetti's PCS 386SX you won't have to compromise on quality of design, engineering, reliability, or service back-up. The 386SX is part of Olivetti's best selling PCS range, which was developed for home and small business

use and has sold over 63,000 in the UK alone since 1990.

Other impressive figures included are 40Mb hard disk, 2Mb RAM configured, Windows 3.0 software and a free mouse. 80Mb and 120Mb configurations are also available.

Ring this figure now, 081-785 6666, for further information on the incomparable Olivetti PCS 386SX, or see below for details of PCS stockists.

olivetti

PCS products are available from selected Ryman/Wilding stores, PC World, Inmac and Action business catalogues or your nearest Olivetti dealer.

All trademarks acknowledged

Peres to lift Israeli ban on contacts with PLO

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON Peres, Israel's newly installed foreign minister, yesterday promised that the country's new government would annul the controversial law that bans any contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In a wide-ranging interview, the former prime minister said that the country's Labour-led government planned to introduce legislation in the Knesset this autumn which would revoke the 1986 law banning meetings with PLO figures. The move, which is likely to anger Israel's right-wing opposition, was regarded as an attempt to improve the atmosphere ahead of this month's round of Middle East peace talks, when Israel's negotiators hope to make a breakthrough in their bilateral contacts with Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

Abie Nathan, an Israeli peace activist, was imprisoned twice for infringing the prevention of terrorism ordinance, and several prominent Palestinian figures, including Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, the delegation spokeswoman, are under police investigation for holding public meetings with Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, earlier this summer.

However, Mr Peres insisted that the move did not signal a rethink on Israel's part about the exclusion of the PLO from the peace process and dismissed a recent offer of a meeting with Mr Arafat as a

"photo opportunity" and an "unnecessary drama".

"We have a Palestinian delegation which exists, which we can negotiate with, which is accepted by Palestinians and accepted by us," he said. "Any attempt to enlarge it, to modify it, to change it, will introduce a chaotic situation. What for? We don't have much time."

Mr Peres, 69, said the new government would be judged on its performance in its first few months. It was determined to reach a preliminary agreement with Palestinian negotiators when the two sides meet in Washington on August 24 for a month of continuous negotiations about the transfer of self-rule to the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The most important thing is the election, its nature, its date, this is the key to the whole implementation of autonomy," said Mr Peres. He predicted that elections to a Palestinian administrative council would take place in the next nine to 12 months.

The Israeli foreign minister's optimistic assessment of the prospects for the peace talks, however, appeared to carefully gloss over some potential pitfalls for the new government. In particular, Mr Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, must contend with a growing right-wing opposition in Israel to the autonomy plan, unease in Syria that its key position is being marginalised by the talks with the Palestinians, and the personal rivalry between the two Labour leaders.

Mr Peres warned potential right-wing troublemakers at home that the new government would not permit any violent disruptions to its programme. "Democracy ends where fear begins. We have to control the rights of the majority to make decisions. It is our obligation," said the life-long Labour member, haled by the right for his dovish views.

As far as Damascus was concerned, he refused to discuss what the Israeli negotiators would present to their Syrian counterparts by way of new proposals on the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. But he said that the appointment of Itamar Rabinovich as Israel's new chief negotiator with the Syrians was a signal to President Assad that the new administration would be more reasonable than the outgoing Likud government.

Regarding his career-long power struggle with Mr Rabin, who defeated him in Labour party leadership elections earlier this year, Mr Peres insisted that far greater matters were now at stake than his personal political ambitions. "We have to serve the country, not an ego," he said. "We were elected to serve a cause and this must be, and in my judgment, the overriding consideration. Right now the main aim is to implement peace. I don't know of anything which is more important to me as a person or a political leader."

• Mehola, West Bank: Israeli soldiers shot dead three guerrillas who crossed from Jordan to the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. Two soldiers were wounded in the clash, the first fatal cross-border attack since Mr Rabin became prime minister last month, the army said. (Reuters)

Gang of Four member dies

Peking: Wang Hongwen, a leading member of the ultra-left "Gang of Four" blamed for the excesses of China's Cultural Revolution, has died of a liver complaint, the New China News Agency reported. He was 58.

Wang was said to be the principal culprit of the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary clique. Jiang, wife of Mao Tse-tung, was the leader. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 13

Sikhs attack

Anaritars: Sikhs, separatists blew up an Indian Border Security Force vehicle, killing seven soldiers and wounding four others, police said. The attack came a day after Sikh militants killed 29 Hindus in Uttar Pradesh. (AP)

Cash payout

Peking: Families of seven Hong Kong and Taiwan passengers killed in last week's Nanking plane crash will be paid ten times more than the mainland victims "because of the gap in living standards", a spokesman said. (AP)

Art found

Nice: Police have recovered a Matisse, a Modigliani and two Degas worth £28 million belonging to Anthony Tarnour, a Franco-Lebanese businessman, from a car after they were stolen from a villa.

Sticky fingers

Sydney: A hungry robber who broke into a cafe could not resist the cakes, but they proved his undoing because he left his fingerprints in the remains. A court ordered him to pay £650 compensation. (Reuters)



Fiery protest barricades set up by residents of Manenberg in Cape Town burn unchecked during a night when ten people died in violence linked to the strike.

Millions obey strike call as more die in township violence

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa was at a virtual standstill for the second day running yesterday as millions of black workers continued the general strike called by the African National Congress alliance, but police renewed their claims that intimidation was rife. Brigadier General Leon Mallet, the police information chief, said that thousands of people were staying at home for fear of their lives.

At least six people were killed in overnight township violence, raising the total since Sunday to more than 40. In Alexandra township, north of

Johannesburg, a gun battle raged for hours during the night. Police said five people had been killed, but residents claimed that up to eight had died. They demanded the closing down of the township's Madala hotel, said to be a stronghold of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The huge sprawl of Soweto, south of Johannesburg, the volatile East Rand and Vaal triangle townships, as well as those surrounding Pretoria, were quiet and the streets almost deserted. Heavy unseasonal overnight rain had brought an icy chill to the Johannesburg area. In Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg, the leader of the United Nations observer

mission came face-to-face with the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement as 3,000 ANC supporters gathered at a football stadium for a march on police headquarters.

Although the right-wing Conservative Party town council had not given permission for the march, police said they would not interfere with it and the movement members threatened that, if the police refused to enforce law and order, they and the residents of Krugersdorp would.

Hisham Omayah of Ghana shook hands with Henry de Beer, the local movement chief, and told him he should solve the people of South Africa

that the UN presence in the country was strictly to observe. Another member of the UN team went to the Driefontein gold mine in southwest Transvaal, where the pro-ANC National Union of Mineworkers said seven of its members had been killed by Inkatha supporters. Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, said last night that the response by business people to the two-day general strike had been largely sympathetic, although some disagreed with the tactics and strategies used. "Considering the magnitude of the mass strike we must regard intimidation as negligible," he said.

The second phase of the ANC alliance's week of action is due to begin today with mass marches and sit-ins planned throughout the country. Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, will lead a march in Pretoria to the Union Buildings, the administrative seat of government, where the cabinet usually holds its weekly meetings. He intends to seek a response from the government to the ANC's demands for resuming constitutional negotiations. Many organisers hope that between 50,000 and 70,000 supporters will join in the rally. In Cape Town, freeways will be closed for a mass march from Langa township to the city centre.

Past Pentagon overtures to Iraq embarrass Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, fighting for his political life, suffered further embarrassment yesterday when it was disclosed that the ABC of democracy. It is our obligation," said the life-long Labour member, haled by the right for his dovish views.

Those links would have ranged from exchange programmes to the training of Iraqi soldiers in fields such as landmine counter-measures, aerial reconnaissance and aviation security including "IR [infra-red] counter-measures for the [Iraqi] president's aircraft," according to Pentagon documents surrendered to congressional investigators and obtained by *The Washington Post*.

The Pentagon initiative was in response to an October 1989 directive signed by Mr Bush ordering consideration of non-lethal military assistance

to investigate the administration's prewar support for Iraq. Congressmen have accused the administration of allowing Iraq to divert American aid to military programmes, permitting Iraq to obtain technologies with dangerous military applications and seeking subsequently to cover up its actions.

Democrats contend that the revelations, and Saddam's persistent defiance, have largely cancelled out the Gulf war victory as a vote-winner for Mr Bush. Vic Fazio, a senior California congressman, said: "It is no longer a home-run ball for George Bush to talk about Iraq."

Yesterday's disclosure came as a new poll showed Mr Bush trailing Bill Clinton by 25 points and government figures underlined the feebleness of America's economic recovery.

ery. A Gallup survey gave Mr Clinton 57 per cent and Mr Bush 32, with the president's approval rating down to a new low of 29 per cent. Mr Bush wills his political fortunes will recover with the economy,

but the index of Leading Indicators, the government's chief economic forecasting gauge, yesterday recorded its first decline in six months.

Pressure for James Baker, the politically astute Secretary of State, to take charge of the Bush campaign has intensified after Monday's rumour in which Mr Bush had to repudiate a vicious personal attack on Mr Clinton by one of his political aides. That fiasco vividly illustrated the lack of direction and co-ordination within the Bush team.

Republican sources expect Mr Baker to move across soon after next week's meeting between Mr Bush and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's new prime minister. One said Mr Baker was reluctant to leave the State Department but "realised he has to step in or we may all be out of jobs".

On his way out, Senior Goldemberg spoke of personal anguish and disappointment with the lack of support for social programmes. "The government ended up preoccupied with its own survival," he said. For Senior Collor, facing accusations in a widening corruption scandal involving the shady dealings of a former campaign aide, the price of survival is growing dearly for the moment. Senior Goldemberg's departure is perhaps only the first in a wave of defections.

For the past two months, congress has been investigating the free-spending ways of Paulo Cesar Faria, the president's former campaign treasurer, who is accused of bankrolling Senior Collor's household expenses and using his personal relationship with the president to mount a virtual "parallel government". As the charges have drawn closer to the presidential palace, the opposition has clamoured for his removal.

Francisco Góes, the central bank president, is reportedly upset by the administration's manoeuvres to use public money to buy political support. Pedro Luiz Rodrigues, Senior Collor's aide press secretary, quit office at the weekend after clashing with Senior Collor over in order to funnel the lucrative government advertising accounts to friendly media while cutting off advertisements of critics in the press.

Pressure is also mounting on Marcilio Marques Moreira, the economics minister, to consider the pillar of the Collor administration, to open Brazil's purse strings to local and foreign government. Senior Marques Moreira, a portrait of severity in this sea of political tumult, has played down such pressures as only "normal demand" in a democratic society.

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

MEMBERS of Vietnam's Nung minority people were forcibly repatriated from Hong Kong yesterday, as the British colony dismissed claims by the human rights group, Asia Watch, that the tribal people were singled out for persecution by the Vietnamese authorities.

The Nung, who live in northern Vietnam near the Chinese border, have a history of staunch anti-communism and were used as mercenaries by both the French and the United States as well as working as guards for leading South Vietnamese civilian and military figures. Last weekend

Asia Watch called on the Hong Kong government not to deport either Nung or people who were liable to be punished as counter-revolutionaries, saying they faced deprivation of their civil rights, police abuse and forced labour and possible execution.

However, Mr Bresnahan rejected the claim that all 133 Nung in Hong Kong's crowded boat people camps would be subject to persecution, pointing out that 24 had returned voluntarily last year and another 30 had put their names forward for a United

Nations voluntary repatriation programme. So far only 15 had been accepted as genuine refugees. He said Hong Kong did not grant any political, religious or ethnic group automatic refugee status but heard each asylum seeker's case individually.

Since Hong Kong's controversial deportation flights began last year, 221 Vietnamese boat people have been forced home against their will. However, the programme has hugely increased the numbers taking the option to return voluntarily.

India fails to rescue economy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A YEAR after India abandoned socialism to embrace the free market, the country is sinking deeper into economic difficulties. Foreign investment has not materialised, and the poor are bearing the brunt of retrenchment.

Much of the red tape that bedevilled private enterprise has gone. But the central problems of corruption and an obstructive bureaucracy remain. Most foreign companies are still wary of making a substantial commitment.

"You would not expect miracles after only a year, but there is not much sign of substantial new foreign investment being contemplated in the next few years," a senior Western observer said. Overseas investment in India this year is unlikely to exceed \$500 million (£260 million), compared with proposals for \$6.5 billion in China.

The slow pace of reform has raised doubts about the government's commitment to fundamental change. It says it wants to close uneconomic nationalised industries and trim the public workforce. But it is plainly wary of taking on the immensely powerful trade unions. Stakes of up to 20 per cent in some public enterprises have been sold, but there is no concerted drive to end government involvement in industry.

Protectionism persists. Maximum import tariffs, though reduced, are still at 110 per cent, among the world's highest. Poor people are being hit by rising food prices.



television station for one year. Supporters of TV Marti say that despite its inability to penetrate Cuba's technical defences, abolishing it would provide President Castro with an unexpected political victory.

The recommendation to replace

Radio Liberty, which broadcast to Eastern Europe throughout the Cold War, with broadcasts from the Voice of America — already providing objective and reliable news for many Third World countries — has also met with opposition.

Malcolm Forbes, chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting, said: "No other media organisation in the world provides these countries with as much information about what is happening within their borders and about their neighbours."

But the commission maintains that the stations are now out of step with the political changes in Eastern Europe. The running costs of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, both based in Mu-

America ready to fade out freedom broadcasts

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

which oversees the US Information Agency, described TV Marti, a project supported by conservative Cuban exiles in Florida and a favourite White House initiative, as "simply not cost-effective". The programmes are aired between 3am and 6am, but very few Cubans see them since the satellite signal is jammed routinely by the Havana authorities.

Scraping the television broadcasts would save about \$25 million (£13 million), but would entail political costs. "There's a political decision that the administration has made to support TV Marti," said Tom Korologos, the commission's chairman. "There are a lot of electoral votes in Florida." After a bitter debate last week, the Senate and House voted to fund the

recommendations reflect both changing political perceptions and the expense and apparent ineffectiveness of such broadcasts. The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

rich, are estimated at \$207 million (£107 million) a year. An earlier presidential task force on international broadcasting concluded that the radio stations should be redefined, but not scaled down.

Congress is now considering proposals to beam news and propaganda to China, a move opposed by the Bush administration on the ground that it would adversely affect relations with Peking. The plan also envisages other "surrogate" radio stations broadcasting to Vietnam and North Korea, together forming a Radio Free China along the European model.

The commission advised this week that rather than build up a new US-Asia radio network, the existing Voice of America broadcasts should be expanded and improved.

Johnnie 150

Sarajevo's people struggle to survive in a city ruled by death



Little comfort: Svetlana Glavas clutching a doll that belonged to her daughter who was killed by snipers

THE killing of Vedran Glavas and Roki Sulejmanovic by sniper fire during an attempt to move children from Sarajevo was but another bittersweet twist in a war that has seen the worst atrocities in Europe since 1945. For those still living in the Bosnian capital, however, there is no respite.

Television pictures of their bodies, covered in a bloody shroud, may have brought home to the West the dreadful reality of the Bosnian tragedy but their deaths were just two among thousands, including hundreds of children.

The presence of the world's media has kept the spotlight on Sarajevo, but apart from the murderous perpetrators nobody knows the full extent of the bloody events outside the Bosnian capital. Whatever the truth behind reports that there are camps where inmates are killed, there is a great evil in Bosnia and the West seems powerless to stop

Life in Sarajevo, dodging snipers and mortar attacks, is unimaginable for Westerners, writes Adam LeBor, who left the Bosnian capital at the weekend

it. Sarajevo's residents are subject to a constant barrage of firepower. They say it is like a heavy lump in the stomach, a constant reminder that at any time the heavens may rain down death on them. Each time two people say goodbye, they never know if they will see each other alive again.

Friends, relatives, neighbours, alcohol, all may lighten the burden, at least temporarily. But when the fighting is close, or especially loud the fear comes to life, suddenly roused by a burst of nearby machinegun fire.

Still they try to live the semblance of a normal life. In

cafes they sit, machine-pistols on the table next to their coffees, chatting and sometimes joking, but their hands twist constantly, fingers intertwining, always looking and listening as one cigarette follows another.

Ordinary life in Sarajevo has become an existence that is unimaginable to people in the West: picking your way among the rubble, crunching a path across broken glass, ducking in doorways, sprinting across intersections and always with the nagging fear that at any second, a sniper will start shooting or a mortar will land nearby.

relatives cannot even mourn their dead for a few moments of peace for fear of sniper or mortar fire.

It is worst for the parents of children and teenagers. Even in Sarajevo, schoolchildren attend their exams, hopeful that some time in a peaceful future there will be an opportunity for a better life. They know that they may not even live to see the results, but still they take the journey to college to be graded on their skills at speaking English or French.

Mothers are placed in an acute dilemma: even when their children ask to play outside or visit their friends. Sarajevo's youngsters have spent months living and sleeping in dank, dark shelters. If they run outside in the open air, to play football or hide and seek, they may, like Amir Adic, have to pay a heavy price for their childish pleasures. The eight-year-old boy now walks on crutches, minus

one leg, after a mortar landed nearby, killing his friend Edi. He told me the story sitting on his hospital bed. They are words no child, no adult should have to utter.

For the children of Sarajevo, the simple pleasures of childhood are now inconceivable. Their existence is governed by the infantry battles that rage across their home town most evenings, and the shelling that wakes them up most mornings.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait, the West formed an alliance to launch the Gulf war and eventually liberate the emirate. But there is no oil in Sarajevo, say its inhabitants bitterly. And for more than 350,000 trapped residents of the besieged city there is no end in sight.

As the sign on the wall behind 'Sniper' Adic says: 'Welcome to Hell'.

Bloodstained ties, page 10

Hurd rules out air attacks on Serbian artillery positions

By MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday again ruled out any air strikes on Serbian positions, saying that many innocent people would be killed and such action would not stop the mortars and the hand-held rockets.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in a Radio 4 interview that there might be ways of extending the United Nations involvement by protecting humanitarian convoys or monitoring a ceasefire agreement of heavy artillery in the hills. But he added: "If the British government, or the UN, or any government felt that two or three days of sharp military action would bring these horrors to an end, then the argument for that would be strong. Nobody does."

Mr Hurd said the situation was in no way comparable to the Gulf conflict. Young men carrying mortars were moving

UK POLICY

fast among civilians. They were living in villages and among people who were not fighting at all. Serbs, Croats and Muslims were mingled together, and any action from the air would kill many more innocent people.

British officials said the callousness of the fighters in Bosnia had reached such levels that any outside military action might only induce them to hide their heavy guns in orphanages or close to schools. Despite earlier German calls for refugee quotas, there was a general consensus among the EC members that relief should be given inside Yugoslavia.

As preparations continued for the London international conference on the conflict, officials hinted Lord Carrington may be about to resign as head of the EC peace mission. "He may genuinely have had enough," one official said. Despite his insistence that he will continue his efforts, Whitehall appeared to be preparing for his retirement on the opening of the conference.

Mr Hurd said yesterday that the conference, to be opened on August 26 by John Major, will broaden and intensify the Carrington mission. All the leaders of the warring Yugoslav republics are expected to attend. Yesterday Douglas Hogg, the junior Foreign Office minister, visited Dublin as part of his consultations with all EC members, whose governments are expected to take part. Next week he will travel to Zagreb, Belgrade and Sarajevo.

The conference will aim to bring together the EC and UN peace efforts, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, will co-chair the steering committee that will set up working groups. The main aims will be to make the ceasefire stick, to negotiate a political settlement and to ensure the rapid flow of humanitarian relief.

Officials said the conference would not begin until there had been thorough preparation. "There will be no quick fix," one said. "We are in for a long haul. We are dealing with the disintegration of a country with a dangerous history. There is no military solution, and we have no hopes of a sudden solution at this meeting."

DIPLOMACY

due. Dr Boutros Ghali's move to broaden his dispute with the council over Bosnia-Herzegovina into one involving Somalia, and the question of priorities between the rich North and the poor South was ready. It was published only the day after a press report pointed out that it was over-

aligned council members represent the fact that Dr Boutros Ghali is blaming the council for stalling on Somalia, where as it was he who delayed presenting his recommendations for action for weeks.

Djibouti, head of the Horn of Africa nation, has already approached Britain to dissociate itself and its neighbours from Dr Boutros Ghali's criticism of the council members. Cape Verde, last month's president of the security council, asked UN officials three times in the course of its presidency if the Somalia report was ready. It was published only the day after a press report pointed out that it was over-

UN quarrel draws in Third World

Diplomats are surprised by the UN chief's move to widen his dispute with the Security Council, writes James Bone

WHEN Lord Carrington arranged last month's peace talks in London on Bosnia-Herzegovina, he invited Cyrus Vance, the United Nations' special envoy.

Mr Vance asked Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, if he should attend and was told firmly "no" — apparently because the UN chief wanted the organisation to be offered joint chairmanship of the talks. The outcome was a probably unnecessary controversy that has engulfed Dr Boutros Ghali only eight months into his stewardship of the world body.

The former Egyptian foreign office minister objected that he had not been consulted about the resulting peace accord and rejected a key provision calling for heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be placed under UN control. He summoned the five great powers at the UN to warn them against increased UN involvement in the former Yugoslavia, and took his case directly to a stunned Security Council.

There he accused council members of focusing on the "rich man's war" in the former Yugoslavia at the expense of Somalia, where 1.5 million people are facing starvation. The council agreed to seek action on Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. Dr Boutros Ghali revived the dispute by rounding on his critics and claiming that he was being misrepresented "maybe because I'm a wog".

In that interview, Dr Boutros Ghali tried to present himself as the champion of the neglected Third World, doing battle with the "colonial" powers of Europe. Third World countries moved last night to distance themselves from his claim. Diego Arria, Venezuela's ambassador, announced that he would ask non-aligned countries to set the record straight by holding a meeting with Dr Boutros Ghali.

"As time goes by, there will be an historical record that will distort the facts and show the secretary-general committed to the cause of the Third World and us committed to the cause of Britain," he said. "It would not be true." Non-

aligned council members represent the fact that Dr Boutros Ghali is blaming the council for stalling on Somalia, where as it was he who delayed presenting his recommendations for action for weeks.

Djibouti, head of the Horn of Africa nation, has already approached Britain to dissociate itself and its neighbours from Dr Boutros Ghali's criticism of the council members. Cape Verde, last month's president of the security council, asked UN officials three times in the course of its presidency if the Somalia report was ready. It was published only the day after a press report pointed out that it was over-

aligned council members represent the fact that Dr Boutros Ghali is blaming the council for stalling on Somalia, where as it was he who delayed presenting his recommendations for action for weeks.

Djibouti, head of the Horn of Africa nation, has already approached Britain to dissociate itself and its neighbours from Dr Boutros Ghali's criticism of the council members. Cape Verde, last month's president of the security council, asked UN officials three times in the course of its presidency if the Somalia report was ready. It was published only the day after a press report pointed out that it was over-

Three-letter word causes offence

By PHILIP HOWARD

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has undiplomatically suggested that British criticism of his policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina occurs "maybe because I'm a wog". In fact, as a Copt married to a Jewess, he is not a wog in the extreme acceptance of the nasty little racist put-down at all. Gyp, yes, in the undergrowth of English schoolboy slang, since he was born in Egypt.

The British servicemen and administrators in the Canal Zone, from whom little Boutros picked up the insult, have much to answer for. They meant no particular offence with their nicknames for the subject races of the empire, and called each other far more derogatory names with a kind of rough affection. But the position of superiority

from which they spoke turned their games into patronising insults, which have stuck bitter roots in the folk memory of races as proud as the English.

It was all so arrogantly unintentional. Asked who had just driven by, the British

sergeant in Alexandria said: "Only a couple of wogs." Appalled, his officer said: "You can't say that. That was King Farouk." "All right," said the sergeant. "King Farouk and another wog."

The origin of wog is hotly disputed by amateur word-smiths, each convinced that he is right, but with no satisfactory solution. It is said to be an acronym, but none of the suggested etymologies is

satisfactorily supported by the evidence. Worthy Oriental Gentleman and Willy Oriental Gentleman are two popular derivations. Another is War Office Ganger, used to describe the workers building the railroad in India.

The word has clearly been influenced by gollivog, for which wog is a nursery shortening, now purged from American children's books.

The written records show that the word was invented in shipping circles at the end of the last century as an epithet to describe a lower-class Babu shipping clerk on the Indian coast. Thereafter the nasty little word spread its connotation to embrace any native of the Indian subcontinent, and thence as a vulgarly offensive name for any foreigner, as in "Wogs begin at Calais".

Labour calls for redoubled efforts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's assertion that he does not support for a British military involvement in the Yugoslav conflict touched a chord with many politicians yesterday after the killing at the murdered children's funerals.

With parliament in recess and news changing by the hour, there is no consensus on further action. Many MPs would like to see Mr Major adapt his initiative on safe havens for the Kurds to give Yugoslav refugees a sanctuary near their homeland.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, said: "Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, must redouble his efforts, both through the European Community and the United Nations, to bring about an immediate ceasefire."

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, a former Conservative defence minister, said: "He John Major's right to head military action."

Peter Shore, former Labour cabinet minister and member of the Commons foreign affairs committee, said: "There seems to be a case for making certain that relief and other supplies get through."

Paddy Ashdown said: "We are moving towards the last chance of stopping the spread of the war." Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, said he stood by his call for Nato forces to eliminate Serb units: "You cannot cope with a land war because it is perfect guerrilla terrain."

Frontline role is forced on the press

FROM REUTER IN SCHÖNEBECK

BABIES and young children rescued from a Sarajevo orphanage and flown to east Germany yesterday are suffering from stress, shock and malnutrition, the head of a children's home said.

Waldtraud Kasperzyk, head of a Catholic children's hostel in Schönebeck, near Magdeburg, said the 14 young refugees in her care were confused and agitated and many were unable to sleep.

"The children are very stressed," she said. "The ones who can sleep do, but others simply have to be carried around because they start crying every time the nurse puts them down."

The children were part of a group of 42 who finally reached safety yesterday after a grueling three-day journey by bus and plane from the besieged Bosnian capital.

They were brought out in a controversial rescue operation organised by two German politicians which was criticised by both the United Nations and the Bonn government.

FROM AP

Home for 14 of the children for the foreseeable future will be a spartan two-storey hostel on a country road outside the grimy town of Schönebeck.

Journalists were not allowed to see the new arrivals, but the half of the building echoed with their cries. Although officials said earlier the children were aged from six months to six years, Frau Kasperzyk said some were as young as two months.

She said four of the children had been taken to hospital immediately on arrival. One had been put on an intravenous drip and the other three were suffering from severe stress.

"The smaller children have survived this better than the older ones, who were more aware of the experience," she said.

"The only thing we can do for them at the moment is to try to keep them calm."

A basic priority would be to feed them and restore physical strength after weeks sheltering in a cellar of the orphanage in Sarajevo.

Frau Kasperzyk said she had been inundated with gifts of textiles and dolls and offers of help. Officials said the children will not be put up for adoption, but repatriated when peace returned.

Neither the BBC nor ITN is sending crews into the battle without proper first aid. Correspondents and crews are given helmets, high-velocity bullet-proof vests and other body armour. The BBC also has a bullet-proof vehicle.

But neither broadcaster has provided its crews with any specific war training. "There are no lessons in SAS-style wriggling through the gunfire," said Robin Staniforth, ITN's foreign editor. "Other than basic first aid, I'm unaware of anything anywhere other than on-the-job training."

The war in Yugoslavia has been the most dangerous war for journalists in history, with proportionally more photographers, correspondents and cameramen killed or injured than in any other war, according to the International Federation of Journalists. At least 24 have been killed, scores more wounded.

Chris Cramer, the BBC's head of news, said: "No story is worth getting killed for. But just being there, whatever the precautions that are taken, is highly dangerous. The place is a madhouse. Every day we review whether our correspondents should come back."

Mr Staniforth said: "The fact that journalists have themselves become targets has also meant that journalists have become involved in the story to the point of assisting or trying to save people." Mr MacIntyre, who works with ITN's Michael Nicholson, said: "If someone gets shot in front of you, you've got a humanitarian duty to help."

The BBC said it sends journalists to Yugoslavia only if they have been there before. But experience covering wars was not what prevented Martin Bell, a BBC correspondent, from getting hit by a bullet which whizzed past his shoulder as he did a live interview for BBC Breakfast News last April. Nor did experience help Sebastian Rich, the ITN cameraman who lost his hearing in one ear after a rocket-propelled grenade sent a glass shard through his jaw.

Mr Cramer said: "Martin Bell has covered 22 wars and he says this is by far his worst experience. It's out of control. It's completely random. Only a few weeks ago, the BBC editor suffered a direct hit. Our guy was taking a leak, otherwise he would have been gravely injured. But here's the rub. It's important too."

Shelter from the storm: a nurse, Annemarie Wenke, cuddles one-year-old Durmo Vermina, one of the Bosnian orphans taken from Sarajevo to Germany

Diary, page 10

Leading article and letters, page 11

Diary, page 10
Leading article and letters, page 11

Finding God in the classroom

Bryan Appleyard wonders if faith can be taught in a secular society

According to Baroness Blatch, "Schools have a vital role in promoting pupils' spiritual and moral development." The education minister's consultative paper, published yesterday, adds that "proper regard should continue to be paid to the nation's Christian heritage."

This is a radical statement indeed: schools must teach people to be good and they must teach Christianity. Even after the shocks of the Thatcher years, it is hard to imagine a more revolutionary idea emanating from a post-war British government.

There are hard and soft liberal cases against the traditional teaching of religion in schools. The hard case is that religion is a bad thing, destructive, divisive and frequently murderous. After Freud it is most rationally seen as a neurotic delusion, no longer viable in a scientific age. In this hard view even teaching religion as a cultural curiosity is damaging as it will interfere with the humanist ideal of clear-sighted, undecided objectivity.

From this perspective Labour's Baroness Blackstone has in the past spoken in favour of making all state schools secular. "Religious teaching," she has said, "is then left to the churches and other religious bodies." In other words: you believe what you like, that is no concern of the state's which is necessarily neutral on such matters. The soft liberal case, defended by many clergymen, is that religion should certainly be taught but only in deference to the "multi-cultural society".

Confronted with Hindu, Muslim and Sikh children, it becomes racist to emphasise Christianity. Teaching religion, in this context, becomes either factual and historical or an attempt to impart the idea of a generalised religious view. "The purpose of religious education," one liberal clergyman has said, "is to reflect on the purpose of life." In other words: religion is simply the universal sense of and longing for depth and meaning.

The government, however, rejects both these views and insists that there is a moral and spiritual role and a commitment to the privileged position of Christianity. This is a populist idea: a large number of determined and articulate parents have been offended by the anti-Christian posture of some teachers. The opinion poll discovery that many children leave school knowing nothing of Good Friday or Pontius Pilate inspires an anxiety, even among non-believers, that they are being sent into the world rootless and rudderless. It is now commonplace to hear middle-class atheists say that it is better to have something to reject than to have nothing.

But there is more than populism at work here, there is the underlying conviction that liberalism has failed. Soft liberalism, for example, was tied in knots by the

The Tory nostalgia for the Prayer Book and the Authorised Version is entirely vacuous

Blatch ought to be aware that they are aiming terrifyingly high. It is one thing to decide that a unifying spiritual and moral norm is required in education, quite another for government to specify that norm. For the real enemy of religion in education is not liberalism but unbelief.

Britain is not a religious place. It is likely that a majority of the Tory conference fonder, as they bay for traditional values, as well as most of the Cabinet are atheists. The nostalgia they feel for the English hymnal, the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorised Version is terribly nice and respectable and entirely vacuous in religious terms.

The easy way out of this for the atheist Tory is to insist that Christianity is the most important historical and cultural force in our society and must be taught as such. English Christianity, in particular, has been responsible for some of our greatest literature and most of our finest architecture. Such an insistence is right and it is a much tougher and truer educational ideal than either hard or soft liberalism.

But is it realistic? Patten and Blatch are aspiring to impose a spiritual norm which for most, even of their supporters, is only a cultural one. They are aspiring to resurrect religion as a socially unifying force amid the widespread conviction that it is untrue. Perhaps they think faith will be taught under this new dispensation. That is to aim even higher. But why not? There is too much realism in government these days and what is the alternative?

Last Friday at 8.02 Joan Sidebottom became, very briefly, a national figure. Few of us knew her, and, unless we call at her DIY shop in Milton Keynes, few of us ever will. A pity, because speaking on the BBC Radio 2 news she sounded a nice lady. Let the newsreader, Patrick Lunt, explain. I have obtained transcript and tape.

"Milton Keynes is at the centre of a major terrorist alert this morning after the discovery of seven fire bombs in the main shopping complex. The devices were planted in a public library and in a number of shops, including a toy shop. Two exploded, one in British Home Stores and the other in Habitat. Some damage was caused but no one was hurt. Several hundred people who live and work in the area have spent the night in emergency accommodation while the security operation continues. Among them is the owner of a DIY shop, Joan Sidebottom."

At this point, capital letters in the BBC script, "INSERT SIDEBOTTOM". Patience! We shall. But first let us agree that Mr Lunt's script is in the best traditions of BBC plain English: clear, fair, cool and informative. Nothing yet has grated on ear or intellect. So why, after only 30 seconds of this, do we go over to Joan Sidebottom? What has she to tell us? Take it away, Joan:

"You feel that you're, er, violated, I suppose, in a way, and it's very disturbing. It's, er, very disturbing, er, especially in a place like Milton Keynes which is, er, a big place and, er, a very vulnerable place in many ways, and it's quite alarming. Er, we never thought it would happen to us, but I suppose, er, it had to happen sometime."

And we return to Mr Lunt. But perplexed, for this is a terse summary of the world's news. Much remains to be packed in. A question, therefore, arises: Why? Why insert Sidebottom?

Let us be clear that for Joan personally we feel nothing but respect. We neither doubt what she has said nor suppose that there is anything else she reasonably could have said, in the circumstances — which were that the person with a fluffy microphone and about

£20,000 a year, thrust the mike into her face and asked her how she felt.

We have every sympathy with how she felt. But, it is of no consequence how she felt. Joan Sidebottom is beside the point. She is redundant. Joan Sidebottom is a distraction, an irrelevance, famous, spurious, a dead end. Joan Sidebottom is a mistake, so how come she retains the nation for a sizeable chunk — 21 seconds to be precise — of a seven-minute world news roundup? How big was her audience at 8.02 — two million? Multiply by 21 seconds. Inserting Sidebottom was eight months of the nation's time. Why do it?

I will tell you why. It is called perplexity. It is bound up with a fashionable and growing assumption among broadcasters that our audience will lose interest unless we transport them to the scene. Forsaking mankind's invention of reported speech we hurry into our hats and coats, and we go there.

It is a thoroughly inefficient way

of conveying information but a mass audience is no longer expected to follow stories it cannot in some sense "witness". So the news itself — the facts, the background, the explanation — must stop and wait, while we "witness" something "from the scene". Never mind the argument: never mind making sense of it, separating the salient from the extraneous, just give them actuality and they will believe. Show them and they will believe.

Of course, as everyone in broadcasting knows, actuality is easier to fake than explanation. But that is what the suckers want so you give it to them. Who cares whether doing so yields anything you could not have told them calmly from the studio in half the time. That is not the point. The point is being there: the point is action, movement, dramatic noise. As though we were toddlers in playpens, our broadcasters keeping our interest with a desperate show of ruffles, sounds and "colour". Don't ask what they mean. Never mind the

peasant politicians argue that the guerrilla war in Bosnia cannot be influenced by military intervention. The surgical strikes used against Iraq would, it was suggested, be ineffective against the Serbs, who would also exact a terrible revenge against the non-Serbian Bosnians and Croats in their power.

Intoxicated by their fatalism, paralysed by now conscious of their responsibility. The sheer horror of the Bosnian massacres had by this time dawned on western public opinion. Economic isolation having failed to bring Serbia to its knees, military intervention was the logical next step. As in La Fontaine's fable, the European mice were all agreed that somebody should place a bell around the neck of the Serbian cat. But nobody volunteered to do it.

The high-tech European armies and armoured vehicles are powerless, it seems, when confronted by a few thousand killers with Kalashnikovs. After the Warsaw Pact collapsed a year or two ago, much was heard of the British forming the principal elements of a rapid deployment force for Nato, designed to prevent or at least to suppress this kind of bloodbath right under our noses. But the wreck of Bosnia lies outside the Nato area. The EC has no real policy; America is in the grip of elections.

So the old women of Sarajevo are left to bury the crumpled bodies of their grandchildren; and the children bury them in turn. It all ought to be consigned to history, which some say came to an end in 1989. But history has returned us this obscene anachronism, this creature of European hypocrisy and duplicity, with interest.

Europe's bloodstained lies

Bosnia is reaping the whirlwind of the EC's mendacity in the Balkans, says Daniel Johnson

Death rides high when politicians lie. Ten years ago, on a visit to Coventry, Pope John Paul II declared: "Wars should belong to history." For a man who can recall the Nazi occupation of Poland, last night's harrowing television pictures from Sarajevo might have told an old story. For most of us, they plumb new depths of depravity. An aged woman was hit by shrapnel during her granddaughter's funeral in a graveyard that had been deliberately bombarded by Serbian artillery. The child's mother was distraught, distraught, distraught.

Many viewers are bound to ask: how is this possible in Europe, among people with whom we have so much in common, in 1992? These women and children seem to have been abandoned to their fate, victims of the indifference or worse of the world's most eminent statement. We have been lied to from the beginning. And the lies have got bigger. Every one was an excuse for inaction.

The first big lie was that Yugoslavia must at all costs be preserved. Until the last minute, June 1991, the western powers backed the moribund federal government. James Baker's last minute warning to the Croatians and Slovenians not to break up Tito's legacy was taken by the Serbs to mean that America (and probably the European Community) would not intervene. But the fictitious entity of Yugoslavia had become a tool of those Communists, led by Slobodan Milosevic, who had staked their political survival on the creation of a Greater Serbia at the expense of the breakaway republics. After Slovenia resisted the onslaught of the Yugoslav army, war was stepped up against the real enemy: Croatia.

Once Lord Carrington's peace mission had been despatched after the real war against Croatia began in July, the next big lie started to

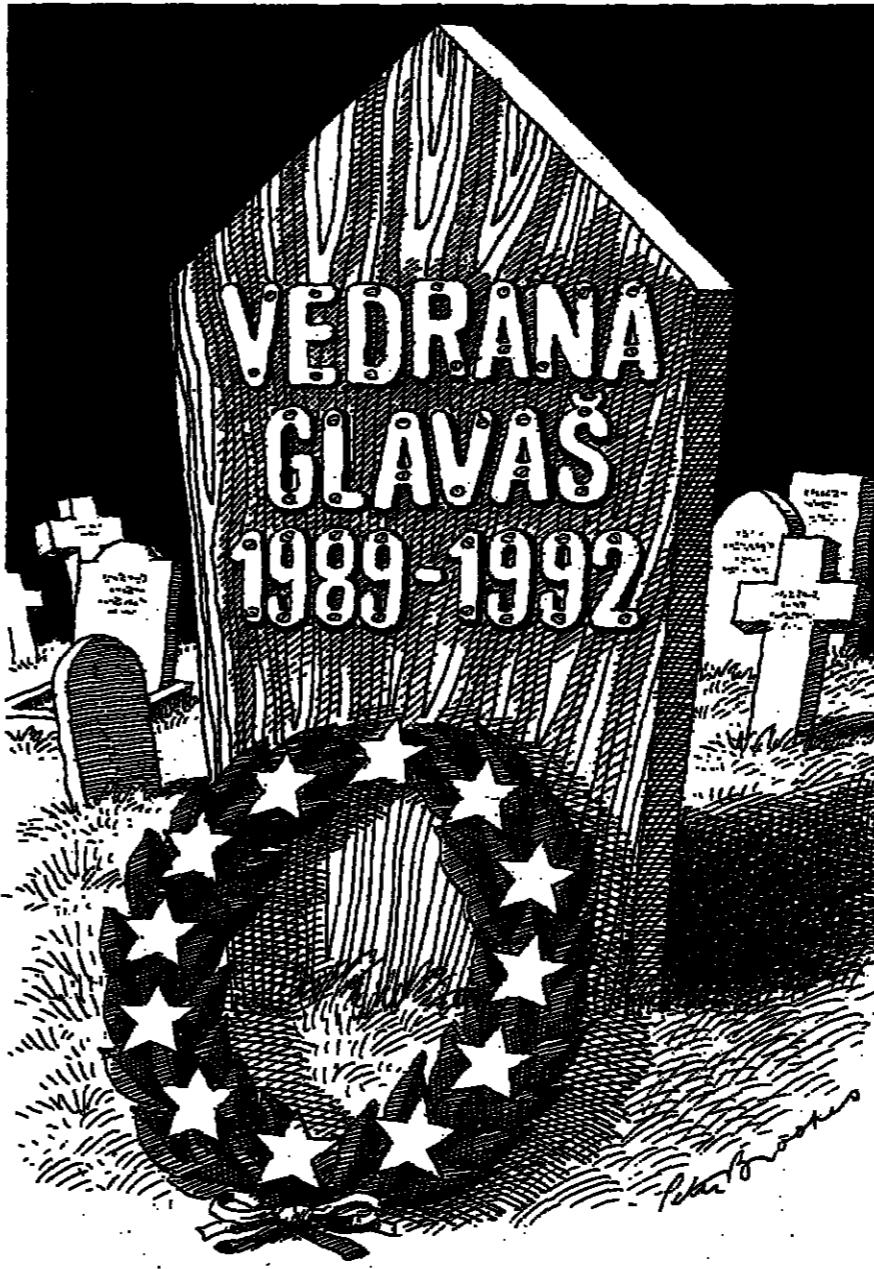
circulate in the European chancelleries. This was the claim that recognition of the republics' independence would antagonise the regime in Belgrade and bring down a frightful retribution on the mixed populations of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Croatian government of Tudjman in Zagreb did not impress European leaders, and most were reluctant to grant it legal status. They let the Serbs carry out ethnic cleansing in large areas of Croatia. Still the EC did nothing.

As the horrors visited by the Serbs on the cities of Croatia multiplied, the next big lie emerged: international recognition need not entail military intervention.

Believing this, Germany increased pressure for recognition — disastrously, because no security arrangements to protect the defenceless had even been contemplated.

A United Nations arms embargo operated in favour of the better-prepared aggressors. The strength of Croatian resistance in the sieges of Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Osijek during the autumn made plausible the notion that it would be enough to leave the new republics to look after themselves.

On December 17, a reluctant EC Council of Ministers, whipped into line by the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, recognized Croatia and Slovenia, paving the way for Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia to seek similar status, as they duly did. The Serbian regime, by now cynical about the probable western response, provided the



logistical support to enable the ethnic Serbs of Bosnia to carve out as large a chunk of "purified" territory as possible. As the new year wore on, Bosnia became a worse charnel house even than Croatia. The Muslims suffered most. By August 1992, most of the population of the Bosnian mini-state was in exile, in Serbian concentration camps, or on the move. Nobody knew how many had died — certainly many thousands.

Having encouraged first one side, then the other, the EC found itself ignored. The stage was set for the fourth big lie, one which is still believed. Drawing analogies with Vietnam and Afghanistan, Euro-

pean politicians argue that the guerrilla war in Bosnia cannot be influenced by military intervention. The surgical strikes used against Iraq would, it was suggested, be ineffective against the Serbs, who would also exact a terrible revenge against the non-Serbian Bosnians and Croats in their power.

Intoxicated by their fatalism, paralysed by now conscious of their responsibility. The sheer horror of the Bosnian massacres had by this time dawned on western public opinion. Economic isolation having failed to bring Serbia to its knees, military intervention was the logical next step. As in La Fontaine's fable, the European mice were all agreed that somebody should place a bell around the neck of the Serbian cat. But nobody volunteered to do it.

The high-tech European armies and armoured vehicles are powerless, it seems, when confronted by a few thousand killers with Kalashnikovs. After the Warsaw Pact collapsed a year or two ago, much was heard of the British forming the principal elements of a rapid deployment force for Nato, designed to prevent or at least to suppress this kind of bloodbath right under our noses. But the wreck of Bosnia lies outside the Nato area. The EC has no real policy; America is in the grip of elections.

So the old women of Sarajevo are left to bury the crumpled bodies of their grandchildren; and the children bury them in turn. It all ought to be consigned to history, which some say came to an end in 1989. But history has returned us this obscene anachronism, this creature of European hypocrisy and duplicity, with interest.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

They need a larger coffee shop at Sainsbury's. I realised that the moment I discovered that Texaco is to introduce random drug testing for "selected staff". I can feel you groping for the connection. I can see that an oil company and a grocer do not spring into the mind as natural bedfellows, as twinned as the Bedfords, as complementary as bacon and egg. Lateral thinkers, however, will be there ahead of me, will have reached the destination, will be wondering only as to the route.

I do not know how Texaco will select the staff, wild eyeballs and dreamy smiles being less than prevalent on a garage forecourt. Bound to spread, though: Shell, Elf, Esso, they'll all be at it. And they will probably test me, as I am regularly seen around forecourts, various pumping fuel, checking oil, hunting for a tap to fill the watercan — why do all garages have an empty one? I expect a squad will pounce any day, excuse me, you have been selected at random...

Sainsbury's are public spirited. They recycle. In the car park are several vast metal containers, they look as if they are waiting for a ship. One is marked PAPER, one GLASS, the third ALUMINIUM. The containers have slots. You arrive and start stuffing the paper, the glass, the cans through the slots. If you are wondering why an elderly woman is standing by the Texaco drugs squad, I look forward to an announcement from J. Sainsbury. Meantime, I am in, and staying in.

Alan Coren is on holiday.

King's move

LORD OWEN, the former foreign secretary who rivals Neil Kinnock for the title of Britain's most under-employed senior politician, is being considered for one of the top jobs in British education.

Owen, who was widely expected to become governor of Hong Kong until Chris Patten lost his seat at the election, has emerged as the favourite for the post of principal at King's College, London.

Dr John Beynon, the last principal of the college, resigned abruptly in May after only 18 months in the job, and King's has since resorted to using headmasters for the first time in its 163-year history.

After much thought,

Tyack, the firm advising the search committee, has drawn up a shortlist, topped by Owen.

Fantastic deal, really. You

spend £100 at Sainsbury's, plus the cost of the coffee needed to get your limbs working again after all that stuffing into slots and jumping up and down on cans. In exchange they give you 6p, plus six plastic bags full of food which you take home and consume so that you will have six plastic bags to put the papers and the bottles in to take to Sainsbury's next week so that you can get another 6p.

Too complicated. Sainsbury's newspapers and drinks in aluminium cans. Give us a bigger coffee shop, somewhere to read the newspapers and drink the drink. Hey presto, no need to take them home and bring them back, thus reducing car usage and the chances of being pounced upon by the Texaco drugs squad. I look forward to an announcement from J. Sainsbury. Meantime, I am in, and staying in.

Alan Coren is on holiday.

Peter Emergy, secretary of the Association of University Teachers at King's, says: "A number of politicians have been linked to the post, but David Owen is the name that keeps cropping up. We support the idea of using consultants, because our main concern is that the best person for the job should be found."

Owen, who has been approached for a number of academic jobs in the past, knew nothing of this one. "It's news to me. I have not had an approach from anyone," he says.

Presumed alive

An Oscar Wilde award for optimism should go to the family of Raoul Wallenberg, the diplomat who, as first secretary of the Swedish legation to Hungary during the second world war, saved the lives of 20,000 Jews before disappearing 48 years ago. The rest of the world may have given up hope of ever seeing him again, but despite the odds his family has not. Yesterday the number of relatives and friends gathered in Budapest to celebrate Wallenberg's 80th birthday.

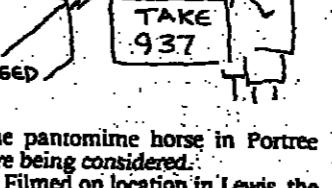
Jacob Wallenberg, his cousin, Guy von Dardel, his half-brother, and Per Anger, who worked with Wallenberg in Hungary, flew to Budapest for a day of commemoration.

Once a week early next year at peak viewing time, English subtitles will be provided. With only 80,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, some are questioning the rationale of the project. STV counter-attacks by pointing to the popularity of its Gaelic cooking programme *Haggis Agus*, which is a proven success, with 400,000 regular viewers. And should *Machair* fail to keep them glued to their sets north of Fort William, the experiment will have cost STV nothing: it is funded by the taxpayer out of the £9.5 million Gaelic Television Fund.

One candidate for a Golden Bull award from the Campaign for Plain English must be the BBC. This week's edition of *Ariel*, the corporation's in-house magazine, has an advertisement for a "human resources assessment technologist corporate management development".

Bread and wine party PLANS for a memorial service for cookery writer Elizabeth David have set mouths watering. Mrs David's most avid admirers and fellow chefs, Anton Mosimann, Martin Lam of L'Escargot, Sally Clarke of Clarke's and Nico Ladenis are believed to be preparing an array of her culinary delights for the service, which is to be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields on September 10.

"Above all, Elizabeth would want simplicity rather than sophistication," says Michael Day, a close friend of the cookery writer. David's favourite foods, olive bread and an omelette with a glass of wine, are expected to form part of the bill of fare. There is speculation that guests will eat off their laps during the service. "She would certainly find such a send-off amusing," says Day.

Hoof, man! 

The pantomime horse in Forties are being considered.

Filmed on location in Lewis, the programme is scheduled to go out



UNGODLY EDUCATION

John Patten began his cabinet career as education secretary in April with a lament for the decline in the fear of hell and damnation. Falling religious belief was a contributing factor in rising crime, he had claimed in an article in the *Spectator*. Yesterday his new department announced that the proposed education bill would contain measures to boost religious education in state schools. Not surprisingly, in view of the *Spectator* article, this was coupled with the need to encourage morality.

Britain is a plural society in which the secular predominates, though there is an odd tendency, shown in the popularity of church schools, for parents to want their children brought up in — or if not quite in, then adjacent to — a faith they do not themselves profess. They like to think that this will inculcate good behaviour. But there can be no simple equation of religion and morality. There is a relationship, certainly, but there have been too many godly scoundrels or upright atheists to make it a direct one.

The protocols governing religious education, in such a mixed society as Britain now is, are hard to arrive at and bound to beg some questions. To use the classroom for evangelism on behalf of the teacher's personal creed is not likely to be acceptable to parents — unless, by selecting a denominational school for their child, they have made that a deliberate choice. Otherwise, churches should look to their own resources out of school for the making of new recruits. The Church of England in particular has neglected to look to its next generation in this way. Mr Patten's bill cannot expect to repair that neglect: 1992's answers will inevitably be different from 1944's, when the phrase "religious instruction" virtually meant "teaching Anglican Christianity as true".

In a curriculum which claims to contain all the important things a child needs to know, however, neglecting religion makes an implied statement that it does not matter. Similarly, to treat all religions as equal, in the name of wayward notions of political correctness, can convey that they are all

equally untrue. Neither of these two common approaches is as unbiased as it pretends.

Nor can there be an unbiased approach to morality. Teaching the difference between right and wrong and encouraging individual and social virtue is a vital part of what schools are for. Mr Patten is starting a period of consultation before the religious and moral particulars of his new education bill are drafted, and respondents, from wherever they come on the doctrinal spectrum, would be well advised not to confuse the two.

Progressiveness in educational fashion has taken its toll here too. In the past schools have approached RE as a branch of ethics or civics or even sociology, to the detriment of religion. That can lead other teachers to regard morals as the specialist domain of the RE teacher, to the detriment of morality. It should be present in every lesson in every classroom, and no less in the playground, corridors and sportsfields of every school.

The 1988 Education Reform Act was nonetheless surely right to insist (as backbench amendments forced it to do) that henceforth RE should be mainly Christian. The culture and history of Britain, its art, music, law, literature, architecture, even political ideology, are incomprehensible if the Christian dimension is left out. General ignorance of even the basic tenets and texts of Christianity is a modern educational scandal, the single most important reason for wishing well to Mr Patten's efforts to reinvigorate religious education.

To teach this dimension respectfully and sympathetically is not indoctrination, for fear of which many RE teachers have taken classroom neutrality too far in the other direction. But to convey sympathy requires skill, and skill requires training. RE is too important to be left to amateur enthusiasts in the staffroom. The long-term answer to the consultation Mr Patten has initiated is the need for more money for RE-teacher education. But until the content of RE has been rethought and refined, Mr Patten will be reluctant to put good money after bad. The debate must come first.

UN STRONGMAN

There is an undeniably comic dimension to the ill-disguised astonishment in Western capitals as the secretary-general of the United Nations abandons his earlier posture of "humble servant" of the UN Security Council. He has castigated its richer members for their "Eurocentrism", inflated egos and double standards. Though Douglas Hurd uttered soothing words about the UN's need for a "strong man who knows his own mind", there is murmuring behind the scenes that the increased demands on the UN place great strains on Mr Boutros Ghali, who is under pressure from his "fellow Africans" to focus world attention on Somalia.

The truth is that in Boutros Ghali, governments thought when they appointed him last year that they had found a man as eminent and faceless as his predecessor, Javier Pérez de Cuellar. Of him it used to be said that "he wouldn't make waves if he fell out of a boat". For all the talk about a revived UN within a "new world order", Mr Boutros Ghali owed his selection to all the UN's worst traditions of inertia and compromise. He seemed the very epitome of the civil servant.

To his immense credit, Boutros Ghali has astonished his backers. Within weeks of taking office he announced deep cuts in the UN secretariat and began the long overdue streamlining of its overlapping departments. The work has a good way to go, but he has achieved more in a few months than his predecessors have discussed in years.

He has tackled the UN's political tasks with courage and readiness to innovate, publishing an *Agenda for Peace* last month which frankly sets out what will be involved if the UN adds enforcement to its existing peacekeeping role. And he has broken with years of pusillanimous silence in the UN by insisting on the close connection between

THE PALACE HOTEL

Over five centuries, Hampton Court has been converted to many purposes, both useless and useful, from palace and centre of government to gallery and tourist attraction. The latest proposed conversion of two of its buildings to apartments for short-term rent falls into the category of useful. When the American billionaire boasts back home in Houston, "I always take my new bride to Hampton Court Palace for the honeymoon," he will unconsciously be repeating what Henry VIII said (several times) before him. The notion of putting Britain's heritage, of which there survives more than can be consumed locally, to imaginative new uses is a good one. It should be developed.

Nothing disturbs the British more than moving their office furniture or their preconceptions. But the idea that Hampton Court was built to be a dignified museum, and that it is therefore vulgar to convert it to short-term holiday homes, is quite unhistorical. The place was built by the original yuppie as a vulgar kind of garden suburb, the first big luxury development for executive-style riverside gracious living with nob's on. From its beginning it acted as a hotel for visiting nob's, in order to extract money or political favours from them. Thomas Wolsey's ostentatious five-star hotel by the Thames was so popular that the contemporary *Private Eye* lampooned it: "The King's Court should have the excellence. But Hampton Court hath the preeminence."

The splendour of Wolsey's hotel attracted the more dangerous eyes of Henry VIII, and shortly thereafter it was made over to him as a present, though this did not save its developer from disgrace and destruction. Then, for centuries, it was used as the

democracy, open government and "true peace and security". Such activism was bound to create enemies. Mr Boutros Ghali shrugs off criticism, saying "it is my job to be provocative". This is refreshing, and partly true, but in recent weeks he has ignored one rule he identified for himself in his *Agenda for Peace*: the need for a UN secretary-general to maintain a "pattern of trust and co-operation" with the security council and other UN bodies.

However justified his anxieties about the multiplication of UN peacekeeping tasks, he was ill-advised to pick a public quarrel over not being consulted on a security council decision to involve the UN in rounding up heavy weaponry in the Balkans. What is more worrying than the substance of this dispute, however, is his dismissal of this tragic and destabilising conflict as a "war of the rich" and a diversion from the UN's more important work in developing countries. He is right to challenge the West to say how it will pay both for Somalia and for Bosnia, wrong to say the "rich" are none of the UN's business, and reckless to play with Third World paranoia about Western "dominance" of the UN.

The rich world's renewed interest in and willingness to work through the UN is his greatest practical asset. Mr Boutros Ghali has many of the right ideas about dragging the UN into the 21st century. He will deny himself the opportunity to implement them if he sets himself up as the champion of only part of the UN's membership. No amount of institutional reform would compensate for such a failure of political realism. Mr Boutros Ghali has shown that he has energy and vision. He must be careful not to act in such a way that his judgment under pressure is called in question.

Paying guests will have to go through the same rigorous security screening as the staff who work there, and will be kept awake on summer nights by the monotonous *son et lumière*. They will be jostled by crowds of tourists. There will be elaborate arrangements to get in after the gates shut, and they will pay the surprisingly low rates of between £10 and £30 a head a night. In short, all will be much as it was when the cardinal entertained there and drank deep.

Buildings are best used for the purpose for which they were built. Ambitious tourists can already dine with a duke dolled up for the occasion at Woburn and other stately homes, for an appropriately ducal emolument. The ghoulish modern passion for torture should be exploited by renting out the dungeons of the Tower after dark to decapitation groupies, with a truss of straw the only bedding required, and stale bread and water as economical table d'hôte. But the ultimately grand hotel, with white-tie diners and conversation with real royals, is going to be available for the foreseeable future only to heads of state on official visits. And they by profession too mean to pay cash.

Time to update the United Nations?

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, At no time since its creation nearly 50 years ago have greater hopes been pinned on the institution of the United Nations. Increasingly, however, it looks as though such hopes may, in practice, be misplaced when viewed against the backdrop of the UN's repeated failures.

It has failed to sustain a peace settlement in Cambodia, or its own credibility in the Iraq conflict. It has failed to deal successfully with the Afghan refugee crisis, or make progress in peace negotiations in the former Yugoslavia. It has failed to galvanise the world community sufficiently in order to provide an adequate response to the effects of civil strife and famine in eastern and southern Africa.

Optimism about the future of the UN and its family of agencies rests largely on the supposed "opportunities" which stem from the ending of the Cold war. Yet, for many, it is pessimism, not optimism, which is the more natural response to the likely success of the UN as it attempts to grapple with the huge difficulties which face it in responding to these

same opportunities in a rapidly changing world climate.

What has recently become abundantly clear is the overwhelming need for some form of supra-national body, be that a United Nations or a similar institution. It is a need felt in particular on behalf of many of the most vulnerable people of the world, especially children.

Is it not now time to take a fresh look at the charter and the fundamental aims, objectives and organisation of the United Nations and its family of agencies in the light of a world that has, in the past two years, been changed beyond all recognition?

Is not now the time for all nations of the world to revisit San Francisco (where the United Nations, in its present form, first drew breath in 1945) and to build for the next generation a new United Nations, appropriately equipped to deal with the opportunities and problems of a post-Cold war age?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director General,
Save the Children Fund,
17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, SE5.

African perspective

From Mr Frederick W. Peacock

Sir, Media coverage has highlighted Yugoslav problems at the expense of suffering in Africa. Famine, alas, is nothing new to countries of the Third World which have little to bargain with in return for aid. Yugoslavia, however, and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe are seen as prospective markets by recession-hit economies of the West. Is it any wonder that help is pouring in?

Dr Boutros Ghali has attempted to redress the balance by requesting the Security Council (report, July 28) to "help resolve equally cruel and dangerous conflicts elsewhere, for example in Somalia". Far from gaining support, the manner of his approach has antagonised the council.

Can it be that the Western powers have manipulated the Security Council, in the hope that an early settlement in Yugoslavia might provide a springboard for their own stagnant economies to take off?

Whatever the politics of the situation, disaster-struck regions of the world have no time to wait for peace to break out at the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERICK W. PEACOCK,
8 North Jesmond Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

August 4.

Church divisions

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux and Dr Kent R. Hill

Sir, Jean Mayland's assertion (letter, July 30) that it was the World Council of Churches, not the present Pope, which was the main source of inspiration for Christians in the Eastern bloc is patently false.

Those of us who have for many years lived in or travelled frequently to Moscow encounter daily evidence that the WCC's stock has never been lower, nor has it ever been viewed as a strong defender of human rights or religious freedom.

Glasnost-era revelations have proven beyond any serious question that the WCC statements and actions over a period of 25 years consistently ignored or downplayed the persecution inflicted on the Christian community by the communist authorities.

The WCC was viewed internally as a prop for the status quo, not as a harbinger of positive change, let alone

a courageous defender of the downtrodden. The world scientific and literary communities were much more effective in defending their own than their ecumenical Christian counterparts.

Those of us who believe in ecumenism have been hard pressed in recent months in Moscow to defend the ideal of true, solidarity-inspiring, ecumenism against the backdrop of the record of ecumenism in practice which Christians in Eastern Europe have been compelled to witness.

Nevertheless, we will persist in our conviction that the world Christian community can do better. But that will not be possible if we fail to tell the truth about the past.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

(Director).

KENT R. HILL

(President, Institute on Religion and Democracy (Washington, DC), 33a Canal Street, Oxford).

August 4.

Church divisions

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux and Dr Kent R. Hill

Sir, Jean Mayland's assertion (letter, July 30) that it was the World Council of Churches, not the present Pope, which was the main source of inspiration for Christians in the Eastern bloc is patently false.

Those of us who have for many years lived in or travelled frequently to Moscow encounter daily evidence that the WCC's stock has never been lower, nor has it ever been viewed as a strong defender of human rights or religious freedom.

Glasnost-era revelations have proven beyond any serious question that the WCC statements and actions over a period of 25 years consistently ignored or downplayed the persecution inflicted on the Christian community by the communist authorities.

The WCC was viewed internally as a prop for the status quo, not as a harbinger of positive change, let alone

a courageous defender of the downtrodden. The world scientific and literary communities were much more effective in defending their own than their ecumenical Christian counterparts.

Those of us who believe in ecumenism have been hard pressed in recent months in Moscow to defend the ideal of true, solidarity-inspiring, ecumenism against the backdrop of the record of ecumenism in practice which Christians in Eastern Europe have been compelled to witness.

Nevertheless, we will persist in our conviction that the world Christian community can do better. But that will not be possible if we fail to tell the truth about the past.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

(Director).

KENT R. HILL

(President, Institute on Religion and Democracy (Washington, DC), 33a Canal Street, Oxford).

August 4.

Library services

From Mr Thomas W. Scragg

Sir, I have enjoyed what I consider to be the privilege of a reader's ticket for the Reading Room at the British Museum since 1967 in order to consult material not available elsewhere in this country. I entirely agree with Miss Joanna Richardson's complaints (letter, July 28) about the change in atmosphere and standards since the present administration took over.

The British Library should most certainly be a library of last resort. However, all members of the Library Association (over 24,000 individuals) have recently been allowed to obtain reader's tickets together with car breakdown, clothes and travel discounts, as one of its personal membership benefits. How this can be justified in a library of last resort is beyond me, but it probably reveals one attitude behind the changes that have taken place over the past years.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. SCRAGG,
The Woodcroft, Stretton Lane,
Barnston, Wirral.

July 29.

Travellers' rights

From Mr Peter Birks, QC

Sir, While you are right to warn against over-reaction to the latest incursions by New Age travellers (letter, July 29) there is little doubt that existing remedies against mass trespass need revision if the law is to retain the confidence of the rural community.

Civil injunctions are the present means by which persons whom a landowner can identify and serve with court proceedings are prevented from committing trespass. But since it is usually impossible to identify, let alone serve, sufficient numbers of persons in advance, their effectiveness as a remedy against mass trespass is very limited. Moreover,

proceedings are too costly for most landowners; enforcement — by committal for contempt — is a painful exercise.

Injunctions should be available to prevent anyone who has no right to enter specified land from entering it: they should be binding on the world at large rather than on named parties to an action only. They should be applied for by local authorities on behalf of landowners rather than by individual landowners and they should have attached to them a power of arrest for actual or threatened disobedience.

Local authorities have long had power to take proceedings to protect the interests of the inhabitants of their area. They should now be given power to apply for *in rem* protection

orders over land other than their own whenever there is convincing evidence of a real threat of mass trespass.

The attachment of a power of arrest to a civil injunction has ample precedent in domestic violence legislation: it has the great advantage of being subject to judicial supervision.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. BIRKS,
Farrar's Building, Temple, EC4.

August 3.

□ The second and third sentences of Mr Ian Ballie's letter (August 3) should have read: "Small groups of [tinkers] ... stayed in areas which had become acceptable by tradition ... and any depredations were tolerable. To equate this tolerance with acceptance of 'mass' encampments ... is nonsense."

Business letters, page 19
Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Questions on use of drugs in sport

From the Editor of the Bulletin of Medical Ethics

Sir, Last Saturday the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission (IOC/MC) announced that clenbuterol was a banned drug, and the suspension of two British weightlifters for taking it was confirmed. That announcement adds to the existing great confusion in the list of banned drugs. May I suggest some of the questions that the IOC/MC, and the Sports Council that administers the drug rules in this country, should now have to answer.

1. One of the two headings under which the IOC/MC has banned clenbuterol is "androgenic anabolic steroids". Clenbuterol is neither androgenic (promoting male sexual characteristics) nor a steroid (a chemical structure with four carbon rings). Will the IOC/MC now ignore descriptors of other groups of drugs?

2. Is it not now time to take a fresh



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 4: The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen was received in audience by The Queen.

Lady Stephen was also received by Her Majesty.

The Earl of Mansfield and Mansfield (First Commissioner and Chairman of the Crown Estates Commission) was received by The Queen.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 11.45; as President of Relate, will visit the Relate Centre at MEA House, Newcastle, at 12.40; as President of Barnardo's, will visit the New Families and Orchard Projects, in Jesmond, Newcastle, at 1.55; and will visit the Somerly Family Centre in Longbenton, Newcastle, at 3.20.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

August 4: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Ruth, Lady Fernay has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

Bowyers' Company
The following have been elected officers of the Bowyers' Company for the ensuing two years: Master, Mr Christopher Ballenden; Upper Warden, Mr James F.G. James-Crook; Renter Warden, Mr Peter Begent.

Appointment

Mrs Mary Moore has been elected to succeed Sir Henry Fisher as Chairman of the Pilgrim Trust.

Birthdays today

The Hon Charles Alissopp, chairman, Christie, Manson and Woods, 52; Professor Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon, 62; Mr Billy Bingham, soccer manager, 61; Professor Sir Michael Drury, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 66; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 44; Major General W.H. Hargreaves, physician, 84; Miss Jacqueline Hawker, archaeologist, 82; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 86; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 55; General Sir Peter Inge, 57; Sir Michael Kerr, QC, former Pro-

curator General and Treasury Solicitor, 69; Sir Bert Millichip, chairman, FA, 78; Mr Rodney Pearson, yachtsman, 49; Mr K.P. Pearson, headmaster, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, 51; Sir Eric Pilkington, chairman, Tynwald, 99; Dr Miriam Rothschild, entomologist, 84; Mr Rob Saunders, rugby player, 24; Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, 59; Lord Sefton of Garrow, 77; Miss Theodora Turner, former marmalade, St Thomas's Hospital, 85; Mr John Whitaker, showjumper, 37.

Computers conspire to fuddle human brain

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER programmers and their electronic protégés will gather in the Park Lane hotel, London, today for an all-out assault on the human brain in a wide variety of thinking games.

More than 50 computers, with their human minders from Russia, Latvia, China, Britain, America, Germany, France and elsewhere, will be competing in the fourth AST Computer Olympiad, which runs until next Tuesday.

Since the first Computer Olympics in 1989, the event has attracted many of the world's top artificial intelligence programmers. Participants have brought with them programmes in chess, draughts and bridge, some of which are already capable of demolishing the leading human experts in their chosen games. The Olympiad also acts as an important stimulus for work in heuristic programming, a branch of artificial intelligence which seeks ultimately to enable computer programmes to solve any problem more efficiently than the best human minds.

David Levy, organiser and founder of the Computer Olympiad, said that the event had become the catalyst for remarkable advances in intelligent computing.

A disturbing aspect of the

olympiad is the question whether the computers will solve certain games and thus render them theoretically meaningless. Last year one artificial intelligence paper entitled "Which games will survive?" predicted that by 2000 computer programmes will either have solved, or at the very least, be of human world championship strength in many of the classic thinking games. The parlour game Connect 4 has already been rendered meaningless by computers and Go Moku, played frequently in Japan, may face a similar fate this year.

One man who maintains that the human brain will continue to reign supreme in its mental battles against computers is the world draughts champion Dr Marion Tinsley. He will be defending his world title against the Chinook artificially intelligent draughts playing programme later this month in the silicon graphics world draughts championship. "I am confident that I will win. I have been programmed by God while Chinook has only been programmed by Dr Jonathan Schaeffer." Dr Schaeffer is a professor of artificial intelligence and computing science at the University of Alberta.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's House.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's House.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's House.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's House.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's House.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event.

said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £1 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, account for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries of the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaujolais race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Claridge's

OBITUARIES

NICANOR COSTA MENDEZ

Nicanor Costa Menéz, who was Argentina's minister of external affairs and religion during the Falklands crisis, died in Buenos Aires on August 2 aged 69. He was born in Buenos Aires on October 30, 1922.

AS HIS country's foreign minister at the time of Argentina's occupation of the Falkland Islands in 1982 Nicanor Costa Menéz found himself in a situation rich with paradox. He was an Anglophile who found himself the instrument of a particularly anti-British piece of Argentine foreign policy. An astute diplomat, he had the bad luck to serve a dictator, in General Galtieri, who had no real use for his gifts over and above their use to himself.

Although Costa Menéz, like any patriotic Argentinian, was utterly convinced of his country's rectitude in its claim to the Falklands, he had, in truth, little real stomach for the kind of anti-European sabre-rattling the Falklands



gamble represented. Perhaps under pressure from the speed and scale of events, he also made in the upshot, diplomatic blunders. He did not foresee (who, perhaps, could have?) the immediate and forceful nature of the British response to the invasion of April 2, 1982. He felt keenly what he saw as the apostasy of the United States in the matter of standing by a brother American nation. He was taken aback by the lack of tangible support from other Latin-American countries. Although he had deployed considerable diplomatic guile to obtain sympathy for Argentina's cause from among the members of the Organisation of American States, he was to find this counted for little once the issues had been put to the hazard of battle.

Born into a well-to-do Buenos Aires family, Nicanor Costa Menéz read law at Buenos Aires University and Columbia University, New York. He was anti-communist, nationalist and fervently Roman Catholic and his foreign education and his prac-

tic as a corporate lawyer representing overseas companies operating in Argentina gave him an experience which was to prove useful to successive leaders of Argentina.

In 1962 he became adviser to Argentina's external trade secretary and was soon after made ambassador to Chile where he remained until 1964. From 1966 to 1969 he was minister of external affairs and religion, the post he was to hold again in 1981-82.

He was also his country's delegate to the Organisation of American States and as such put forward a motion for the creation of an inter-American defence force. The OAS rejected his motion.

For a time this was the end of his politico-diplomatic career. He had been practising as a lawyer again for 12 years when he was summoned back to office by Galtieri in 1981. He always claimed that a "peaceful" occupation of the islands as a means of persuading Britain to the negotiating table was what had been on the agenda. In the event in a desperate gamble as a means of diverting attention from his government's atrocities against its own population and restoring its popularity at home, Galtieri sped up this "negotiating process" and invaded the Falklands.

Costa Menéz, as Galtieri's apologist for this action in the outer world, was clearly disconcerted by the British reaction. At the United Nations in New York where he had to negotiate with Alexander Haig, American secretary of state and leader of the UN peace mission, he appeared hamstrung by the fact that Galtieri's true intentions could not really be subjected to the diplomatic process to which he himself was instinctively wedded. The result was irritation from Haig at what seemed to be mere temporising by Argentina and the, in the end fateful, resolve of President Reagan to support Britain in the conflict.

When after the Argentine surrender on the Falklands on July 14, 1982, the armed forces ousted Galtieri, Costa Menéz, too, was dismissed from his post and was not to hold further office.

In later years he suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair. He had been a victim of a polio epidemic which had swept the country in the 1950s, an event which had put an end to his participation in the sports he had so loved as a young man. He was an admirer of Britain and its culture, the works of Shakespeare and Locke lined his walls. He was also fond of English clothes — especially when they adorned pretty women.

He married, in 1948, Mercedes Robirosa; they had two daughters.

CARDINAL FRANTISEK TOMASEK

Cardinal František Tomášek, 34th Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia and Moravia, died yesterday in Prague aged 93. He was born on June 30, 1899.

ONCE called "an oak tree of the Holy Spirit" by Pope John Paul II, Tomášek was a strong leader of the Catholic church in Czechoslovakia through the difficult years of communism and the first years of post-communism. For Czechoslovak Catholics he was a beloved and respected father figure whose popularity seemed to increase with age.

His courage in defending religious and civil rights during the latter years of communism inspired many outside the church and won Tomášek the respect and admiration of civil rights groups, notably Charter '77.

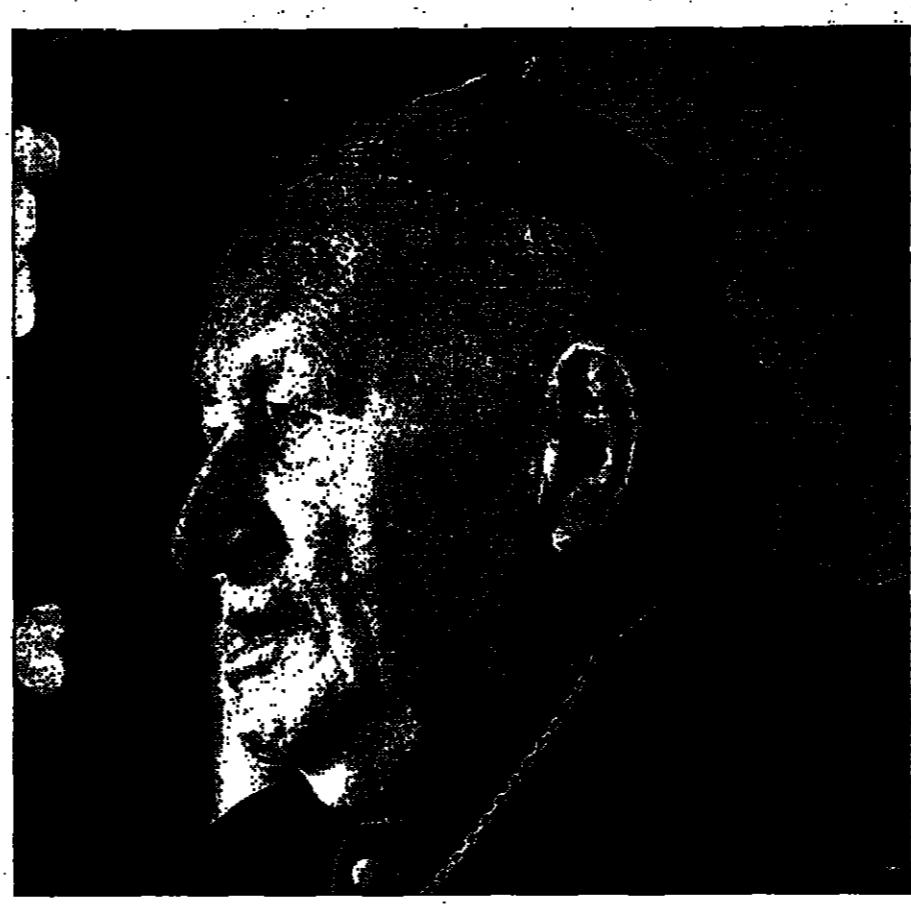
Born in Studenka, a small Moravian village, František Tomášek was one of six children. On the death of his father, when Tomášek was seven the family moved to the city of Olomouc, where in 1918 he entered the seminary after completing military service. In 1922 Tomášek was ordained. A distinguished theologian, Tomášek was the author of 35 religious monographs and a best-selling Catechism of the Catholic Religion. From 1934 he taught catechetics at the Cyril-Methodius theology faculty, where he also studied for a doctorate in theology. The closure of Czech universities in 1939 interrupted his studies and he returned to school teaching. In 1945 Tomášek was able to return to the Cyril-Methodius faculty where he obtained a second doctorate. For the next five years he was professor of pedagogy and catechetics until the faculty was once again closed this time by the communists.

In October 1949, shortly after the proclamation in Czechoslovakia of new laws severely limiting the Church's freedom, Pope Pius XII nominated Tomášek as Auxiliary Bishop of Olomouc. The state did not approve his appointment and two years later Tomášek was arrested and, along with most other Catholic bishops and half the priests in the land, interned in a hard labour camp.

On his release three years later Tomášek was appointed parish priest in the remote village of Moravská Huzová. While still a parish priest, Tomášek unexpectedly received state permission to travel to Rome to participate in the Second Vatican Council. As chairman of the Movement for Conciliar Renewal one of his initiatives was to set up a pastoral council of priests and lay Catholics in an effort to deepen the church's spiritual life.

Following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, strict state control over the church was reimposed. In the years that followed, Bishop Tomášek displayed a talent for quiet diplomacy, avoiding confrontation with the regime without personal compromise. He was the only Czech bishop to refuse to join Pacem in Terris, the government-sponsored association of Catholic clergy, when it was founded in 1971.

Tomášek's cautious approach to church-state relations as well as his pastoral and educational work won the respect of Pope Paul VI. In May 1976 he raised Tomášek, at that time an apostolic administrator with limited church authority, to the rank of cardinal — a highly unusual, if not unprecedented, move. The nomination was made in pectore because of difficulties with the Prague government and was not announced until the following



year. Only in 1978 did Cardinal Tomášek become Archbishop of Prague and simultaneously Czech Primate.

As cardinal, Tomášek had to contend with criticism from within his own church for Dubcek's reforms in 1968 and in a telegram to the premier promised his Church's support. With many state-imposed restrictions on the Church now lifted, Tomášek saw his chance to implement some of the proposals of the Second Vatican Council. As chairman of the Movement for Conciliar Renewal one of his initiatives was to set up a pastoral council of priests and lay Catholics in an effort to deepen the church's spiritual life.

Conscious of the importance of the laity in a church crippled by its shortage of clergy, Tomášek lent his support to numerous lay Catholic initiatives. In January 1983 he gave his backing to a major Catholic petition for religious rights and urged Catholics to sign it. Six hundred thousand showed their unity with the Cardinal by signing the document. That same year he launched a 10-year programme of spiritual renewal in preparation for the third millennium. The programme aimed to encourage Catholics and non-Catholics to take responsibility for the spiritual and moral state of the nation.

Cardinal Tomášek was the author of numerous letters to the communist government defending the rights of believers and calling for church-state separation. In one of the most significant, written in 1987, he called for the separation of church and state in Czechoslovakia. It was the first time such a demand had been publicly expressed by a Church leader.

But the Primate's interventions with the regime were not limited to church matters. He was to become an outspoken defender of human rights and on several occasions in 1989, notably January and November, protested at police brutality during peaceful anti-government demonstrations.

In November 1989 a momentous event in the history of the Czechoslovak Catholic church heralded dramatic political changes. The Blessed Agnes of Bohemia was finally canonised in Rome. Morale in the church reached a new high, but there was dismay that the service could not be held in Prague. A week later the demonstrations began which were to topple the communist government.

Within six months of the "Velvet Revolution" the situation of the Catholic church in Czechoslovakia had improved significantly for the Cardinal to be able to welcome Pope John Paul II in Prague for the first time. Aged 90, Tomášek had waited a long time for this moment.

On March 27, 1991, the Pope finally agreed to Tomášek's replacement as Archbishop of Prague. He was almost 92, his health was failing and he confessed relief at the Pope's decision — "a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders". Of his successor, Miloslav Vlk, Tomášek said he was "a man of great faith and hope who overcame all the trials of difficult times". The same could be said of Tomášek.

Wang Hongwen, one of the "Gang of Four" who terrorised China during the years of the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, died of a liver complaint in hospital in Peking on August 3 aged 58.

WANG HONGWEN

shouted as a nationalist firing squad shot him: "Long live the Chinese Communist Party." As for Wang, he was discovered to be an "all round" communist, not merely a worker but a farmer and also, possibly, a soldier as well.

The year 1973 was his apogee and saw him behind only Mao and Chou En-lai in the party hierarchy. By the following year he was already overstepping the mark. He annoyed Hua Guofeng by meddling in the organisation of the militia in Hua's province of Hunan. The fact was that Wang thought that he ought to have a military command, a piece of presumption which brought howls of protest from the generals and stubborn opposition from Chou En-lai. Notwithstanding, Wang next went to Mao to hint that Chou was plotting against him. Mao, who by now had considerable misgivings about the activities of the Gang of Four, declined to believe such patent untruths about his prime minister. Indeed, when soon afterwards Jiang Qing suggested that Mao invest Wang with even greater powers, the chairman demurred.

Nevertheless, when Chou died in 1976 Wang carried out his duties in a caretaker capacity. Retribution was not, however, long in coming. When Mao himself died not long afterwards Wang's enemies closed in. Deng Xiaoping and others among the older men whom the Gang of Four's youth cult had given such a bad name launched a political counter-offensive. The main accusation against Wang was that he had tried to organise the Shanghai People's Militia into a fighting force to defy the regular army.

long enough in the wake of Mao's death to help the leftist group tighten its hold on China.

Tried with the rest of the gang at a televised hearing in 1981, Wang was sentenced to life imprisonment. Unlike Jiang Qing, who remained defiant in the face of her accusers, Wang seemed to accept his sentence meekly, promising to work hard in prison and to mend his ways. He first entered hospital in 1986 for treatment for his liver complaint.

SIR DENNING PEARSON

Sir (James) Denning Pearson, former chairman of Rolls-Royce, died on August 1 aged 83. He was born on August 8, 1908.

DENNING Pearson will be best remembered as the man at the helm of Rolls-Royce when it collapsed in February 1971. The reason for the collapse was the huge additional sums required to develop the RB-211 aero engine, which eventually proved beyond the company's ability to finance. Whilst the uncompromising stance of the RB-211's main customer, Lockheed, made the problem more acute, the crisis became a classic confrontation between the engineers and the accountants. In the end Pearson and his senior colleagues were determined to produce the best engine at almost any cost.

The collapse was an early test of the industrial policy of the Heath government. Rolls-Royce was allowed to fall into liquidation, while the aero engine division was nationalised. The motor car division was floated on the Stock Exchange in its own right before eventually being taken over by Vickers.

Pearson was born in Bootle, Lancashire, the son of an engineer of modest means who died when Pearson was only 12. The boy and his mother moved to Cardiff, where he attended Canton Secondary School. From there he became an apprentice with C. H. Bailey, Graham, the local ship repairer. Whilst at Bailey's he

went part-time to Cardiff Technical College, gaining a first-class honours degree in engineering from London University. After a year's post-graduate work, he gained the only Senior Whitworth Scholarship awarded in Britain that year, which he took on turbine research at Metropolitan Vickers.

He joined Rolls-Royce in 1932. It is a measure of the standards of engineering prevailing there that even a man of his academic achievements was not rated in the first rank at the company. He spent his early years in the aero engine department, which was to play such a decisive part in the culminating phase of his career.

He took charge of the technical department when Rolls-Royce set up a shadow factory in Glasgow for the wartime production of Merlin engines. He became chief technical production engineer, making frequent visits to the United States.

After the war Pearson was transferred to Canada to open a technical office for the sale of Merlin engines for a Canadian-built version of the Douglas DC-4 aero engine being bought by Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

This involved formidable technical challenges, because Rolls-Royce had not previously made engines for civil aviation. But the experience gained was to prove valuable in the many later civil contracts won by the company. When he returned to Eng-



land in 1946 Pearson was made general manager of sales and service for the aero engine division, where he concentrated on expanding the civil aviation business.

In 1949 he became a director of the division and managing director five years later; he travelled extensively, selling the company's engines to 100 airlines and a similar number of other civil operators in 59 different countries.

In 1957, whilst remaining head of the aero engine division, he was made chief executive of the whole

group. He gave up the dual role in 1965, but remained chief executive for another three years until he succeeded Lord Kindersley as chairman. He was knighted in 1963. Although his colleagues knew him as Jim or PSN (short for Pearson), Denning was his family name, and that was what he adopted as his official title thereafter.

A highly intelligent, widely read man with firm views on organisation, he developed a very strong personality, declaring in a BBC interview that the secret of industrial success was the pursuit of excellence, from which success would inevitably follow.

This philosophy met its ultimate challenge in the RB-211 issue, in which Pearson felt badly let down by the government. He was believed in some quarters that the government allowed Rolls-Royce to collapse so that it could replace Pearson and his team with a management of its own choosing. However, it is clear that he was unable to persuade banks and other financial sources to provide additional support.

Although the main part of Pearson's career effectively ended at that point, he became chairman of Gamma Associates, a consultancy firm, in 1972 and remained so until 1980. He was president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies in 1963 and the following year was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He re-

ceived honorary degrees from the universities of Brunswick, Wales, Nottingham and Loughborough, and was a fellow of the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

His major interest outside engineering was education. He was a member of the Universities/Industry Joint Committee of the Confederation of British Industry. He was a governor of the London Graduate School of Business Studies and a member of the council of Manchester Business School.

Pearson also maintained close links with Rolls-Royce: his principal home until his death was near the Derby works. He also took an active interest in the local community. He was a magistrate, chairman of the Derby Royal School for the Deaf, a member of the board of Derby College of Further Education, and governor of several local schools.

Pearson's main hobby was sailing. His family had a cottage in north Wales, where they used to take summer holidays. He shared the ownership of a Dragon sailing dinghy, and was a keen sea fisherman. Although work frequently took him away, when he relaxed he was able to switch off from his business concerns.

Pearson met his wife, Eluned, at Metropolitan Vickers and they married in 1932. She died earlier this year. He is survived by his two daughters.

Church news

Church of Scotland

Induction

The Rev Alan Greig to Kimore

Ordination and induction

The Rev John Knox to

Macnaul, Lochgilphead

Auxiliary ministers ordained

The Rev Marion Howie to

Arrochar Park

Retirement

The Rev Alexander Barr from St

Nicholas Cardonald, Glasgow

The Rev R.A. Montgomery from

Quinton's Village, Mount Zion

The Rev Alan Taylor from

Brydekirks with Hoddam

The Rev James Thomson from

West Kirk, Dumfarton

enable him to bear his contemplation without madness, the world might, perhaps, be still more edified by his confessions of guilt, than even by his formal and solemn punishment. The hope of such an event is indeed slender: nothing but years of solitude and seclusion can be expected to bring it out.

It is intimated that he is to be treated as a "General" and, consequently, is to be allowed a certain amount of freedom. He resides St. Helena. Good God! A parole to this man who has broken parole, broke a oath, everything that is sacred, every thing that can bind man to man! If we had taken Le Feuvre Desnoettes, or any other of the numerous scoundrels who broke their parole in this country, I apprehend no man of common sense would have contended that they would have been again entitled to their parole. In former and better times, an English Admiral who sailed to the West Indies carried a fitter at his mainmasthead to hang the Count D'Escaign, who had violated his parole and in strictness of law, the Admiral was justified.

Buonaparte, patrois these infamous breaches of faith in others, and sets them an infamous example. He binds himself by treaty to remain Cibis; and he comes into France, proclaiming that this promise was a mere artifice on his part, and that he never intended to keep it.

In the name of humanity, therefore, to avert dangers from which the soul results with dread, if not to punish crimes which it contemplates with horror — let this man be committed to such secure keeping, that the world may know and be assured that it is physically impossible he should survive, for any other purpose than repentance. If he is not to be exhibited, like Bajazet, in an iron cage, let him be for ever immured in the silence and secrecy of a dungeon.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PROBUS

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Wrottesley, 2nd Baron Wrottesley, as tronomet, Stafford, 1798; Alexander Kinglake, historian, Taunton, 1809; Edward John Eye, explorer and governor of Jamaica, Hornsea, Yorkshire, 1815; Guy de Maupassant, short story writer, Miromesh, France, 1850; Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia 1966-67, Sydney, 1968. DEATHS: Thomas Newcomen, inventor of the atmospheric steam engine, 1765.

Latest



Family gathering: the Queen Mother with Princess Margaret, Lord Linley, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princess of Wales and Prince Harry

Mortar attack on Sarajevo funeral horrifies West

Continued from page 1
the men with mortars were often moving swiftly through villages and strikes would kill many people not involved in the fighting.

An American official yesterday said that he could not yet confirm earlier claims that the Serbs were operating concentration camps in Bosnia. The change of position led to heated exchanges in Congress and the State Department denied that it had lied about the issue.

"We have not been able to have independent confirmation of these reports, but we are certainly following up vigorously with the Serbian authorities," Thomas Niles, the assistant secretary of state, told the House of Representatives foreign affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

In Bonn Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, dismissed calls for Germany and other Western countries to supply arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. He said this would violate a UN embargo and run counter to the goal of achieving a political settlement.

He said such calls appeared reasonable at first in view of the horrors reported from the war zone. However, Germany and all other UN members were bound by a security council embargo on supplying weapons to any successor state of the former Yugoslavia.

Heavy fighting broke out yesterday in the Croat-held suburb of Stup, close to the headquarters of UN peace-keeping forces, and Sarajevo residents began filling bathtubs with water after reports that Serbs planned to cut off the city's water supply.

Authorities said 18 had been killed and 116 injured in fighting in the city since the weekend, with 32 killed and 26 wounded in Muslim or Croat-held parts of Bosnia.

Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, yesterday welcomed the arrest of 70 Serb irregulars in Bosnia as "a first but concrete step to contain the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic."

Daily visitation, page 9
Daniel Johnson and
Diary, page 10

Hospital infection kills two

Continued from page 1
symptoms. Admissions of children requiring intensive care have been suspended until clean-up operation has eliminated bacteria from the hospital. All the affected children are under seven and have been moved into isolation where they are being treated with antibiotics.

Both babies who died were heart disease patients whose weakened immune system meant the *klebsiella* provoked fatal septicaemia, one of the many conditions the bacterium may cause.

Doctors at Guy's yesterday defended their actions. Doral O'Sullivan, consultant in communicable disease control, said that it had been hard to track down the source of the infection. "Identifying the most common factor was difficult. In the end it was that they had been cared for in the intensive care ward at one point in their treatment. As soon as we found this out, we closed the ward."

Lurking infection, page 2

Gifts and guns mark the royal birthday

BY LIN JENKINS

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 92nd birthday yesterday with characteristic poise, humour and accessibility.

Well-wishers, some of whom had waited all night, roared with delight when the Queen Mother, dressed in a flowing outfit of turquoise and gold, emerged through the gates of Clarence House. A policewoman, who had earlier led the impromptu choruses of *Happy Birthday* and *For She's a Jolly Good Fellow*, gave way to Colin Edwards, sporting a Union Jack shirt and cap, who conducted the crowd with gusto, despite his sleepless night on the pavement.

As the Queen Mother mingled with the crowd, she accepted gifts of gin, from an American woman living in south London, birthday cake, posies, Norfolk lavender and home-made cards from scores of children. Julia McCarthy Fox, who had camped out in a makeshift tent of a chair and blanket, said: "I have seen the Queen Mother at least 15 times. I think she looked very well today. She is obviously enjoying herself."

More officially, the birthday was marked by a 41-gun salute at Hyde Park and another of 62 at the Tower of London. Protocol dictates such formalities with the 62 guns being fired at the Tower of London by the Honorable Artillery Company on the anniversary of the birth, accession and coronation of the Sovereign and on the birthdays of the Queen Mother and Duke of Edinburgh.

Buckingham Palace said it was usual for a salute to be fired from Hyde Park an hour earlier, at noon. The normal salute from the park is 21 rounds, but since the occasion was a royal one, an extra 20 were fired.

After the public celebration, the Queen Mother celebrated privately with the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Harry, Princess Margaret, the Duke of York, Lord Linley and his sister Lady Sarah Armstrong Jones.

Diary, page 10

Olympic sketch

Who said cheats never prosper?

The most grandiose self-delusion in sport — and competition for this accolade is pretty intense — is that sport is an oasis of fairness in a global desert of wickedness. It is nothing of the kind.

People are surprised and shocked when people cheat in sport, particularly when it happens on the highest of moral high ground, the summit of Mount Olympus. Why? It happens every time. Of course it does. At the first Olympic Games in 1896, Spiridon Belokas, covered part of the marathon by horse and carriage. He was later found out and stripped of his bronze.

The latest Olympian up roar concerns the Moroccan, Khalid Skali, winner of the 10,000 metres on Monday night, disqualified for receiving copious assistance from his lapped teammate, Hamoum Bouayeb, and then dramatically reinstated yesterday.

Skali won in a storm of boos and his lap of honour, in a hall of paper cups. In the end, it seems, the conclusion was that his win was dodgy, but not all that dodgy. The Kenyans, who lost a gold medal to Richard Chelimo by the

margin of a millisecond, are distraught.

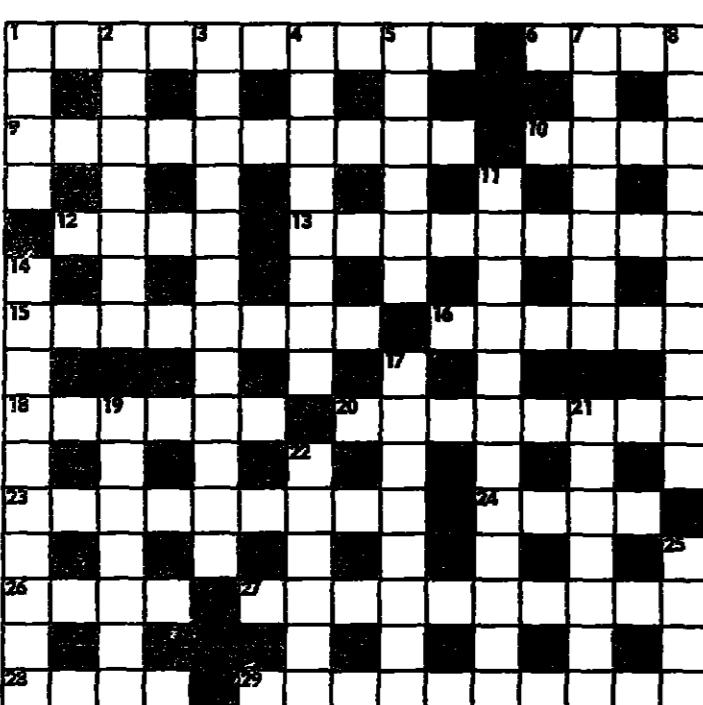
Where does the fair play lie in all this? It was not edifying, none of it, but it was certainly riveting stuff. The point of it all is that sport is not a moral exam plin but a moral drama.

There is a high dramatic quality to cheating, and cheating has always been part of the sport. What is more, that simple gut reaction of "that's not fair" — has always been part of a spectator's pleasure. If you seek proof, look no further than the glorious anger of the crowd as they responded to Skali's victory. It took us straight back to bullring and the howls of derision that greet the matador who shows fear, or to ancient Rome and the thumbs-down to the fallen gladiator. Such moments have always been part of sport's charm.

All of which brings me to my favourite sporting quotation. It comes from the writings of that well known goalkeeper, Albert Camus. He said: "All that I know most surely about morality and the obligations of man, I know from football." Note that "most surely". That is the key, not just to football, but all sport. The 10,000 metres and its follow-up are yet more of sport's simple moral dramas. And that is what sport is all about.

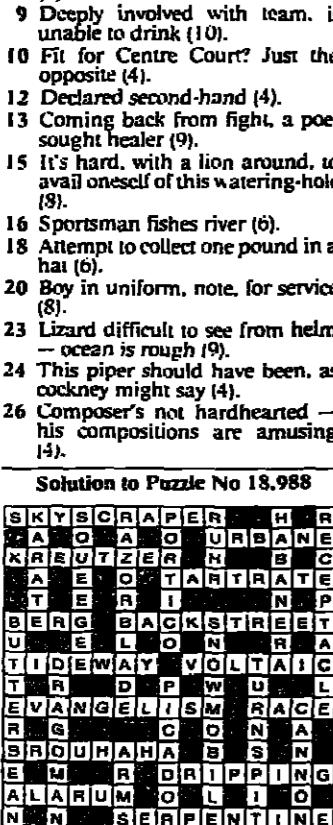
SIMON BARNES

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,989



ACROSS
1 Simple artist's note in front of a catalogue (10).
6 Voiced support for examination (4).
9 Deeply involved with team, is unable to drink (10).
10 Fit for Centre Court? Just the opposite (4).
12 Declared second-hand (4).
13 Coming back from fight, a poet sought healer (9).
15 It's hard, with a lion around, to avail oneself of this watering-hole (9).
16 Sportsman fishes river (6).
18 Attempt to collect one pound in a hat (6).
20 Boy in uniform, note, for service (8).
23 Lizard difficult to see from helm — ocean is rough (9).
24 This pipe should have been, as cockney might say (4).
26 Composer's not hardhearted — his compositions are amusing (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,988



27 Again orders change, nonetheless, to do this? (10).
28 Regretted beginning from Diogenes, on the way from France (4).
29 Pride without prejudice in this novel (6).
30 Fit for Centre Court? Just the opposite (4).
31 Coming back from fight, a poet sought healer (9).
32 Bold use may be made of this sporting event (5,7).
33 On other side in the French game (8).
34 Get fed up about half measure in governing body (6).
35 In demand? That's not true? (7).
36 Not crazy about silver? It's very fashionable (3,3,4).
37 Group set up to investigate Labour? (7,5).
38 Page about joints going into detail (10).
39 Sang with evil manipulation, as 18 did with this man's (8).
40 Christian's statement of his rank, in Muslim country (7).
41 A canoe I built for this island group (7).
42 Overturning a republic, became monarch (6).
43 River or brook (4).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 41 per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Bristol regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

TARANTULOUS
a. Like a large hairy spider
b. A case for decanters
c. Frustrated

PAROUCHE
a. Stolen, sly, antisocial
b. A very stiff red hat
c. A swindler

BRACHYCEPHALIC
Short-brained-headed

b. Lame-armed

c. Brachial tidal water

SORTILEGE
a. Blasphemy
b. Mulciberous hose
c. Public opinion polls

Answers on page 12

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE

C. London (within N & S Circs) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M25-M4 733

M-ways/roads M23-M4 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

National 736

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

East Anglia 740

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch 746

Answers on page 12

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheapest rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 22C (72F); min 6pm to 6am, 13C (55F). Humidity: 80%; 40 per cent. Wind: 12-20 km/h. Bar: mean sea level, 1000 mb. Pressure: 1016 mb. Falling: 1.020 mb. 1000 mb=29.53 in.

1,000 mb=29.53 in.

1000 mb=29.53 in.



BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1992

SPORT
22-26

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

GENTLY ACQUERELLE

Lenders urge £60,000 mortgage tax relief

Pressure grows for boost to housing market

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

TODAY IN BUSINESS
CREDIBILITY

Credit rating agencies, including Standard & Poor's, are in the lime-light as more organisations vie for a high rating

Page 19

POLL POSITION

Takayuki Mori's \$13 billion fortune saw him named the world's richest man in a poll by *Forbes* magazine

Page 20

WAR PAINT

Interim profits at KALON, the paint maker, rose 55 per cent as the Manders bid battle neared its climax

Pages 17, 18

REACTING

Yorkshire Chemicals is raising its interim dividend from 2.375p to 2.5p a share despite lower first-half pre-tax profits of £5.16 million

Tempus, page 18

SLIDING

TI Group reports a 7 per cent slide in first-half profit with no signs of sustainable recovery

Pages 16, 18

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9230 (-0.035)
German mark 2.8349 (-0.0115)
Exchange index 92.1 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1804.0 (-10.8)
FT-SE 100 2407.5 (-12.7)
New York Dow Jones 3380.00 (-15.40)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 15692.59 (-16.86)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 9.4%-9.5%
US Prime Rate: 6.5%
Federal Funds: 3%-3.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.17%-3.18%
30-year bonds: 105%-106%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
\$1.9225
£ DM 2.0207
\$ SFr 1.5283
£ FF 2.5790
\$ Yen 127.23
€ Index 92.1
ECU £0.718941
\$ DR 0.751408
€ ECU 3.90934
£ SDR 3.30833
London: Forex market close

GOLD

London: £1.9230
AM \$325.75 PM \$326.70
Close \$325.50-\$326.90
\$182.10-\$183.90
New York: Comex \$352.50-\$352.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.90/bbl (\$20.15)
RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

Two more leading mortgage lenders called for government help for the housing market yesterday, adding to the previous day's call from Abbey National.

The Woolwich, the third-largest building society, and National Westminster Bank both want the mortgage tax relief ceiling doubled to £60,000. Their proposals came as the Treasury analysed Abbey National's tax credit scheme. This would pay up to £10,000 as compensation to people who had lost money in the property crash.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive at the Woolwich, wants the limit for mortgage tax relief to be raised to £60,000 for new buyers for a 12-month period. These new buyers would keep the higher tax relief for five years, in his proposal.

The threshold for stamp duty should be doubled to £60,000, he said. In December, the government lifted the threshold temporarily to £250,000, but it goes back to £30,000 for property purchases in the coming year.

The Woolwich estimates that it would cost £1 billion if 1.3 million bought properties during the year. If such a scheme was restricted to first-time buyers, it would cost £500 million. The doubling of the stamp duty threshold would cost £840 million a year. The average new mortgage is currently £60,000.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, the largest lender among the high street banks, said that during

informal discussions with the Treasury he had suggested there might be scope to double the ceiling for mortgage tax relief, while at the same time planning to phase out such relief altogether.

Mortgage tax relief is costing £6.1 billion a year. It has been limited to loans up to £30,000 since 1983. Last year, higher rate mortgage tax relief was abolished.

Last December, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, led by Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, suggested a temporary doubling of the mortgage tax relief limit if it was retained in favour of the stamp duty holiday.

Mr Kirkham said that he fully supported the government's commitment to the ERM as a basis for reducing inflation, but it must recognise that inflation was not the problem in the housing market but deflation was. "Prices are spiralling down and public confidence is going the same

way. Most households feel, and indeed are, less wealthy by the month and consequently they are determined to save more, and spend less. Less spending means less employment. More unemployment means more government expenditure on social benefits."

The Abbey National proposal was to give income tax refunds to home owners who sold at a loss and bought again. It would cost at least £1 billion a year as it was designed to help any of the three million home owners whose properties are worth less than they paid for them, who wanted to move.

Hopes, however, that the housing market will lead the economy out of recession suffered a setback with government figures showing a continued decline in housing starts and completions.

Provisional estimates for June showed that 14,300 dwellings were started. The figure is marginally up on the 14,000 starts in June 1991 but the 42,500 starts in the three months to June were 2 per cent down on the corresponding period last year.

Completions in the month fell to 15,000 from 15,200 and over the latest three-month period were down 10 per cent on a year earlier at 39,300. The fall in new starts has accelerated. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the latest three-month figure was 8 per cent down on the January-March quarter. Private starts were down 6 per cent.

Comment, page 19

Lord Alexander: tax call

NatWest doubles profit despite drain of bad debts

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank more than doubled pre-tax profits to £211 million in the first half of the year after its American subsidiary returned to the black.

This, combined with cost-cutting, pushed the bank to a record operating profit of £1.09 billion and helped combat the flood of bad debts in Britain. Overall, the group's bad debts fell only £38 million to £864 million. The recovery allowed the bank to maintain its interim dividend at 6.125p.

Despite this, Richard Goetz, the new finance director, said that NatWest now has a £4 billion portfolio of non-performing loans which is all more than 90 days in arrears. The bank is closely watching loans worth another £2.3 billion, which it believes are doubtful. The cost of funding the non-performing loans cut the bank's profits by £290 million in the half year.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, said any substantial improvements in bad debt provisions depended on economic recovery and he called on the government to implement a package of tax incentives and public spending to stimulate growth.

Derek Wanless, the new chief executive, said the results were evidence of the reorganisation of the bank. "More

needs to be done and is being done but we are now well positioned to deal with the short-term uncertainties and obtain any benefit from any economic upturn."

The improvement at NatWest Bancorp, which moved from a £172 million loss to a £44 million profit, helped offset the worsening figures from NatWest's core retail business. This dived into a £74 million loss, compared with a £19 million profit last year.

Last year, the division profited from a £38 million release of Third World debt provisions. Mr Wanless said NatWest's equity operations, previously part of County NatWest, were back in profit but not yet making an adequate return. As such the business has met the target set by Lord Alexander two years ago when he gave it two years to turn around.

Sir Geoffrey Little, chairman of County NatWest, has resigned from the bank. The creation of NatWest Markets and the reorganisation of the business had left him without a role in the group.

Unlike Lloyds and Midland last week, NatWest increased income 3.5 per cent. The main growth came from overseas operations, corporate banking and insurance services.

Staff numbers were cut by 3,100 during the half year, mainly through voluntary re-

dundancy, natural wastage and early retirement. Lord Alexander said the bank plans to shed another 2,000 in the second half. The cuts allowed the bank to hold costs steady at £2.1 billion, although it incurred £29 million in exceptional restructuring charges.

NatWest Markets, the bank's new corporate and institutional division, saw profits slide from £232 million to £141 million because of a rise in bad debt provisions.

Last year, the division profited from a £38 million release of Third World debt provisions.

Mr Wanless said NatWest's equity operations, previously part of County NatWest, were back in profit but not yet making an adequate return. As such the business has met the target set by Lord Alexander two years ago when he gave it two years to turn around.

Sir Geoffrey Little, chairman of County NatWest, has resigned from the bank. The creation of NatWest Markets and the reorganisation of the business had left him without a role in the group.

Unlike Lloyds and Midland last week, NatWest increased income 3.5 per cent. The main growth came from overseas operations, corporate banking and insurance services.

Comment, page 19



Lord Alexander: tax call

Royal Bank faces £418m legal battle

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in the Royal Bank of Scotland fell 21p to 153p yesterday when it announced it is facing a £418 million legal battle with the liquidators of Wallace Smith Trust, a former customer.

The announcement could not have come at a worse time because it coincided with Royal's decision to launch a £200 million preference share issue in America to boost its reserves. Royal's shares were also hit by a warning from the bank that debt provisions are still rising and will cut profits this year.

KPMG Peat Marwick, Wallace Smith's liquidator, has also told National Westminster that it is planning to sue it for £71 million plus interest for the alleged misconduct of a Wallace Smith Trust account, although it has not yet sent a writ. The case appears in the notes to NatWest's interim figures, published

yesterday. Peat served a writ on Royal last Friday. It alleges Royal allowed 38 payments worth £418 million to Wallace Smith Trust to be diverted to Wallace Smith Holdings, a related company, between mid-1989 and end-1990.

Wallace Smith Trust, a small City bank, was closed and placed in provisional liquidation by the Bank of England in April last year. Duncan Smith, Wallace Smith Trust's chairman, has been charged with 15 offences of theft, fraudulent trading and false accounting and is due to stand trial next February.

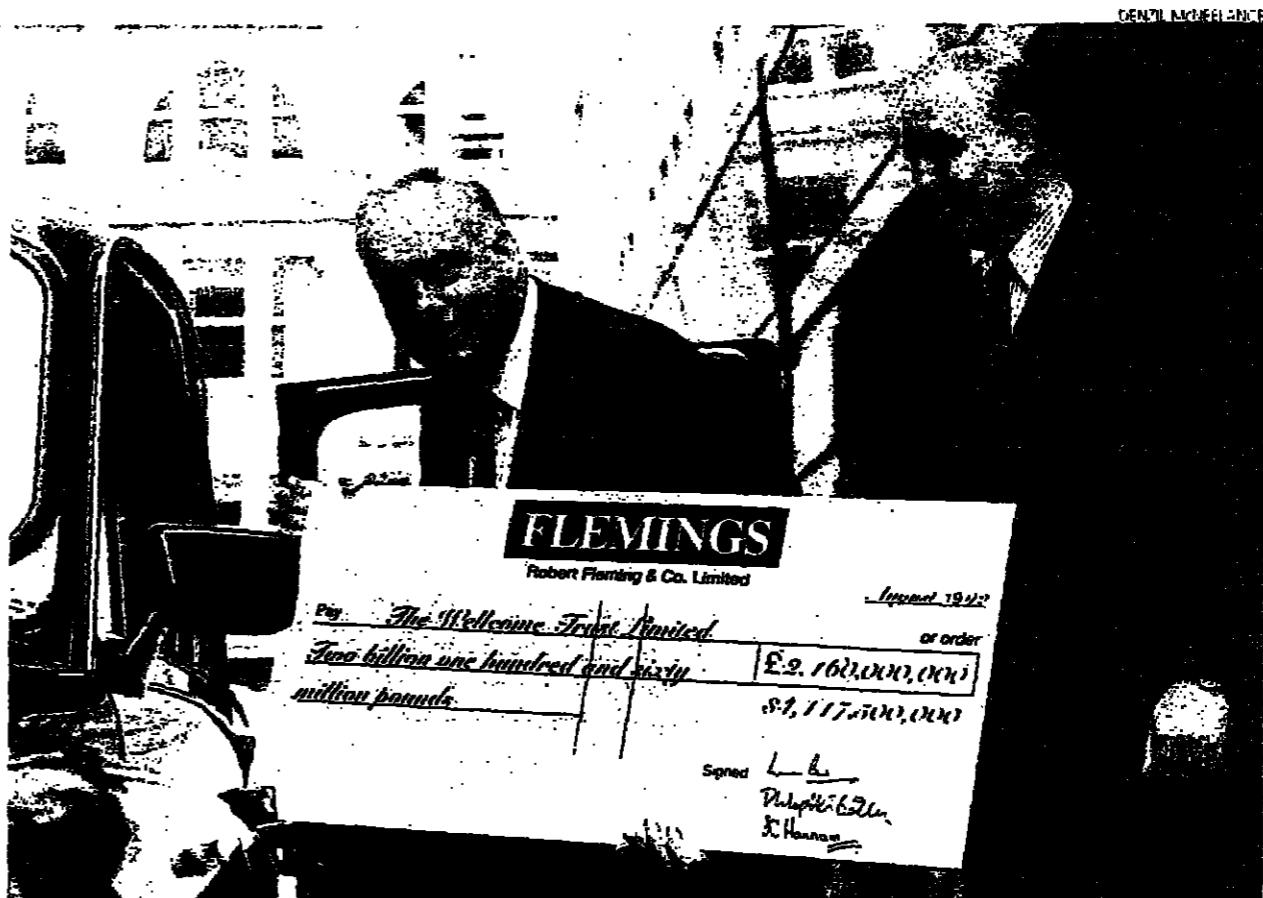
Royal Bank said in a statement that it would vigorously contest the claim but had not made any provision against it since it could not assess its liability. Miller McLean, Royal's legal director, said: "The liquidators are alleging we had no authority to make the payments, which we dispute. We believe that the payments were made with the authority of Wallace Smith Trust." Royal Bank

severed its relationship with the firm a few months before it was closed.

Some funds diverted to Wallace Smith Holdings are thought to have been later routed back to the trust, and Royal has asked Peat how much is still missing.

Last year, Peat said Wallace Smith Trust's creditors faced up to £100 million

shortfall. In a separate statement, Royal said its bad debts are still rising, dashed analysts' hopes that they had peaked. "Business conditions will remain difficult for the group for at least the remainder of 1992," it said. Royal Bank suffered provisions of £351 million in the year to September 1991 and £163 million in the half year to last March. Mr McLean said the preference share issue would be used for general corporate purposes. "We cannot see any point in not taking new capital when we have the chance," he said. This is Royal's third issue since 1989.



To the bank — and fast: Ian Macgregor and Lawrence Banks leaving yesterday with the £2.16 billion cheque

Wellcome
eschews
equities
for bonds

By MARTIN WALLER

JAN Macgregor, director of finance at Wellcome Trust, takes delivery of a cheque for £2.16 billion raised from this summer's sale of shares in the Wellcome pharmaceutical group. The money will be reinvested and the income used to fund medical research, the charitable trust has said.

Robert Fleming, global co-ordinator to last month's sale, collected the cash from participating institutions around the world and the cheque was handed over at Fleming's London headquarters yesterday by Lawrence Banks, deputy chairman, as share certificates went out to retail investors.

The trust says that as a result of switching out of the low-yielding Wellcome shares, where it retains a 42 per cent holding, into higher-income funds, the total income for the next full financial year will double to £22.0 million.

The share issue suffered in the malaise on equity markets this month, and the amount raised came in at the bottom end of some earlier forecasts. Not surprisingly the trust remains wary of equities, and the mass of the money raised will not go back into shares.

Roger Gibbs, the trust's chairman, takes the view that at the moment, at a time of low inflation, bonds look more attractive for the next six months at least. As a result, £1.5 billion will be invested in cash and fixed interest investments.

Including the outstanding 42 per cent holding in Wellcome, which has a value of about £2.5 billion, the trust has a total of £5 billion under management, including a £300 million equity portfolio dating from the original 1986 flotation of the pharmaceuticals company and a £500 million special fund set up by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, to take shares from institutions wanting to subscribe to this summer's issue.

The trust therefore has about 30 per cent of its investment in cash and bonds, although in the longer term the intention is to reduce this to below 25 per cent.

Less wary of the equity market are six out of the eight executive directors of Wellcome, who have taken up shares in the offer.

Comment, page 19

Signs suggest 'recovery' in US has run out of steam

By RODNEY HOBSON

ANY economic recovery in America has petered out, according to leading indicators that fell in June for the first time this year. They are seen as a reliable guide to future performance.

The index was pushed down by weaker money supply, a shorter working week, higher applications for unemployment benefit, a fall in share prices and depressed consumer confidence. These factors offset higher orders for plant and equipment and a rise in manufacturers' orders for consumer goods.

The fall of 0.2 per cent was in line with economists' forecasts and followed rises of 0.3 per cent in April and 0.6 per cent in May. The figures cast doubt over the latest forecast by the Federal Reserve of real growth in the American economy of about 2.5 per cent this year. To achieve that target, growth in the second half will have to be at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent, while economists think the actual outcome will be about half that.

They believe there was also concern at the possibility of a No vote in the French referendum on Maastricht and of a further rise in German interest rates in the autumn.

Figures from the Treasury show that there was modest support for sterling during July. The Bank of England spent about \$86 million from the gold and currency reserves. The figure was only marginally higher than economists expected.

However, the reserves showed an overall rise of \$50 million to \$45.75 billion, taking into account borrowings and repayments. Further pro-

Maine - Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

IS YOUR SECRETARY WASTING YOUR TIME?

... "Time" disappearing whilst you wade through the whole Business Section of The Times, when really your Secretary should be scrutinising it for the articles that you need to see...

... "Time" spent dictating letters, which a competent Secretary would compose for you...

TI says that Dowty profit is much less than expected

By MARTIN WALLER

TI GROUP, fresh from victory in its £45 million battle for Dowty Group, the aerospace engineer, is claiming Dowty's profits have come in £6.7 million lower than stated when it was defending the bid.

In addition, claims that Dowty had performed strongly against a background of depressed engineering markets this summer were a "distortion," said Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman and the company's performance remained flat.

Shares in TI, the diversified engineer, fell 29p to 285p on the news, in interim figures to end-June, TI reported pre-tax profits down 7 per cent at £50.3 million, which took no account of the acquisition of Dowty. But the dividend rises 6 per cent, from 3.5p to 3.7p.

"Regrettably, there are still no signs of sustainable recovery from the present recessionary conditions," Mr Lewinton said. There had been some improvement in the American automobile market over a year ago, but "it has yet to be demonstrated that they will have any material effect on trading for the year as a whole". Europe, and within it Britain, remained depressed. Orders were at a similar level to the beginning of the year.

TI had instructed Price Waterhouse, its auditor, to review figures for the year to

March issued by Dowty in the bid's dying days. These suggested pre-tax profits of £32.7 million, above most market estimates. The review, carried out in conjunction with Arthur Andersen, Dowty's auditor, which did not sign off the defence estimate, had produced £36 million, after write-offs on unused fixed assets, stocks, long-term contracts and other adjustments.

In addition, the Dowty accounts for that period would contain another £25 million loss from the subsequent closure of part of the information technology division, which TI says is not a going concern.

A Dowty defence spokesman said the reduction in stated profits was no surprise and reflected TI's accounting policies of taking provisions and boosting earnings per share, which Dowty had already criticised during the bid defence.

Claims that Dowty had distorted its claimed trading performance in the American automobile market over a year ago, but "it has yet to be demonstrated that they will have any material effect on trading for the year as a whole". Europe, and within it Britain, remained depressed. Orders were at a similar level to the beginning of the year.

TI had instructed Price Waterhouse, its auditor, to review figures for the year to

Tempus, page 18



All TI men now: Christopher Lewinton (centre) with his senior management team and subsidiary presidents

Adsteam to float off its Woolworths subsidiary

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

THE Adelaide Steamship group (Adsteam) is to float

Woolworths, for about A\$2 billion (£773 million) — the biggest offering ever made locally. About 48 per cent of the shares have been allocated to shareholders in the Adsteam group. But the rest (and any entitlements not taken up) will be offered to local and foreign investors.

A price range will be set and institutional investors will be asked to tender for the shares in October.

French power producers 'can sell to Italians'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, yesterday forced a crack in the massive energy monopoly controlled by France's state-run Electricité de France.

In ruling that an electricity producer on French territory could sell to the Italian network at Italian prices, a spokesman said Sir Leon had scored an "important psychological breakthrough".

However, the spokesman said the unusual circumstances of the case meant that

other French electricity generators should not assume that they can rid themselves of the shackles imposed upon them by EdF rules and sell direct to customers abroad, even although this was the ultimate aim of Antonio Cardoso, the EC energy commissioner.

At ministerial level, Senator Cardoso's efforts to liberalise the electricity market have been blocked by the EdF lobby.

Coal setback, page 20

Robin Woodhead to be Fox chief executive

THE London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox) has found a permanent chief executive almost ten months after the previous chairman and chief executive resigned when the irregularities were uncovered in the operation of the exchange's property futures market. The new appointment, Robin Woodhead, takes up his position on October 1. He was a founder and the first chairman of the International Petroleum Exchange, a post he held for four years.

Mr Woodhead succeeds Philip Thorpe, who joined the exchange on secondment from the Securities and Futures Authority in October. Michael Jenkins was named as chairman of Fox in April. Mr Woodhead has extensive experience in the financial services industry, particularly in exchange-based commodity futures trading.

Admiral lifts dividend

ADMIRAL, the computer services company, lifted pre-tax profits 18 per cent to £1.96 million in the six months to end-June. Turnover increased to £13.7 million (£11.7 million). Earnings per share were 11.6p (10.3p). The interim dividend is 1.7p (1.5p). The recent acquisition of Computer Business Consultants broadened both product range and customer base. Cash in hand at June 30 was £5.3 million (£3.9 million). New customers include BP Oil, Reuters and Marks and Spencer. Admiral gained a full stock market listing in 1987.

Pacer back in profit

PACER Systems, the electronics group traded on the USM, is back in profit and has rebuilt its cash balances. Pacer made net profit of \$195,000 in the six months to June. That was well down on the \$393,000 earned in the first half last time but a turnaround from a disappointing second half that saw Pacer lose \$85,000 for the whole of 1991. The interim dividend is held at 3 cents. Pacer said its order book was slightly down from \$58 million to \$55 million but cash in hand was up by nearly a third to \$1.2 million.

Dudley Jenkins ahead

DUDLEY Jenkins Group, the USM supplier of direct mail services, increased pre-tax profits 37 per cent to £466,000 in the year to the end of April. Turnover rose slightly to £9 million (£8.8 million). Earnings per share were 4.51p (3.63p). A final dividend of 2.65p (2.7p) makes an unchanged total of 4p. The proceeds of a £2.4 million rights issue in June helped to finance the £1 million purchase of Market Location, an information supplier.

TI Group, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Tempus, page 18

Adsteam, page 18

French power producers, page 18

Robin Woodhead, page 18

Admiral, page 18

Pacer, page 18

Dudley Jenkins, page 18

Market Location, page 18

Kalon's profit rise backs up its bid for rival paint firm

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

KALON Group, the Yorkshire paint manufacturer, has backed up its £89 million hostile bid for the rival Wolverhampton-based **Manders** (Holdings), with a 55 per cent increase in its half-yearly profit to £6.16 million.

Earnings per share for the six months to end-June are 48 per cent higher than a year ago, at 3.45p, and the interim dividend has been lifted from 0.7p to 1p. Kalon is also forecasting a full-year dividend of 3.2p a share, against 2.2p last time.

The figures come two days after **Manders** posted its own

improved profitability in the first half.

Mr Hennessy said Kalon's results provided further evidence of the group's "consistent ability to generate substantial increases in profits and market share".

The dominant decorative paint business, which claims 16 per cent of the UK paint market, lifted its contribution by 41.8 per cent to £6.01 million during the period after sales increases in both the retail and trade market.

Industry figures show that the group's trade paint sales improved by 17 per cent over the six months to the end of May, compared with an 8 per cent decline elsewhere in the industry. Group retail paint sales were up 9 per cent, against a non-Kalon industry advance of 3 per cent.

Kalon says its average ex-factory selling prices were similar to those in the first half of 1991. Mr Hennessy said that, despite claims to the contrary, the group had not conceded any discounts to support customer promotions.

Profits were checked by deepening losses of £136,000 in the chemicals division, where management changes led to disruption, similar losses of £242,000 in the recession-hit industrial coatings business, and an increased deficit of £139,000 at Smyth-Morris in Spain, again under new management.

Mr Hennessy promises action on all these divisions by the year-end, and does not rule out sale or closure if they remain unprofitable.

Kalon generated £7 million of cash during the six months, lifting cash balances to £8 million. Kalon, which has until Sunday to adjust its terms should it wish to, yesterday claimed acceptances from holders of about 6.5 per cent of **Manders** shares. Mr Akers claimed that the bulk of this was accounted for by "one relatively new institutional shareholder".

Mr Akers said: "Acceptances from other shareholders represented only 0.57 per cent."

Taubman sells to reduce his debts

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ALFRED Taubman, the Sotheby's chairman who raised more than \$100 million two months ago to bolster his depleted personal fortune, is bringing his shopping centre property company to market in a deal that will relieve him of more than \$400 million of debt.

Mr Taubman, 67, who pioneered the artistically designed American covered shopping precinct, is selling investors 26.8 million shares in **Taubman Centres** Inc at a price between \$12.50 and \$14.50, valuing the 19 malls at between \$52 and 60 times last year's earnings.

As a result, he will give up control of the property empire he built, have a \$450 million personal loan forgiven and own a stake in the company worth \$326 million, although this has been pledged to a bank as collateral for an \$80 million loan.

In June, there was speculation among property developers that Mr Taubman was experiencing a cash squeeze when he sold 37 per cent of his Sotheby's shares for about \$106 million. None of the

proceeds went to Sotheby's, which described that sale as helping Mr Taubman's liquidity position.

Mr Taubman retains two thirds of Sotheby's stake. Three years ago, Mr Taubman's fortune was estimated at \$2 billion. It dropped to \$600 million last year.

Of the offer, 22.4 million shares will be sold in North America and 4 million internationally. Morgan Stanley is the lead investment bank. The offer will help reduce \$610 million of debts to three pension funds, which provided start-up cash to Mr Taubman in 1985. At the highest end of the offer price range, two funds at General Motors and one at AT&T, the telephone group, will get \$327 million in cash and equity valued at \$874 million.

Taubman Centres will be a real estate investment trust whose sole asset is a 32.5 per cent stake in **Taubman Realty Group**, which owns the shopping centres direct with the Taubman family interests, which control a 26 per cent stake, and General Motors, with 41.5 per cent.



Crime-buster: Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman and chief executive of Kingfisher, the B&Q to Woolworth retailing group, helps to start Crime Concern's Crucial Crew safety programme with Vanessa Richardson, 11. Crucial Crew, organised by the City of London Police and sponsored by Kingfisher, aims to help children lead safer lives by confronting them with simulated situations involving danger or crime

Business failures up in July

Receiverships and administration appointments totalled 474 in July, the highest for four months but still well down for the sixth consecutive month, on a year ago, according to figures from **Touche Ross**, the accountant.

In the first seven months, there were 3,192 appointments (3,466). Christopher Morris, insolvency specialist at **Touche Ross**, said the downward trend was "possibly explained by the high level of support" given by banks' intensive care departments.

July was bad for motor trade firms and there were increases in failures among wholesalers, hotels and catering.

Radiant loses

Radiant Metal Finishing, the metal finisher and property developer, saw pre-tax losses narrow from £169,002 to £94,000 in the year to end-February. There is no dividend (nil).

Power pay rise

James Smith, chairman of **Eastern Electricity**, has joined the list of privatised industry chiefs receiving large pay increases last year with a 112 per cent rise to £243,000 for the year to end-March.

Canadian Pacific slips into deficit

FROM REUTER IN MONTREAL

CANADIAN Pacific said a substantial improvement in its earnings in the second half of the year will depend on a solid economic recovery. Earnings will also be affected by labour disruptions in the coal industry, which will affect both transportation and energy results.

There should be some benefits in the second half of 1992 from a recovery in rail grain shipments, continuing strong oil and gas production, stable oil prices and gradual improvement in markets for forest products.

Canadian Pacific reported a loss for the first six months of the year of six cents per share on a net loss of C\$18.7 million (£8.2 million) versus a profit of C\$25.6 million.

Wholly owned **CP Rail's** earnings for the first six months fell to C\$94.1 million, due to a weaker second quarter, from C\$130.5 million in the first six months of 1991.

Labour disputes at the Westar and Fording coal mines in British Columbia caused a reduction in coal movements. Traffic volumes fell 7 per cent in the second quarter. **CP Rail System** is continuing contract negotia-

tions with three unions. **CP Ships** returned to profitability, posting a profit of C\$5.2 million for the first six months versus a loss of C\$9 million. The turnaround stemmed from improved container rates, higher load factors and cost savings.

PanCanadian Petroleum operating income fell to C\$98.3 million from C\$138.6 million. **CP** holds a majority of **PanCanadian's** shares through **Canadian Pacific Enterprises**. Lower contributions from **PanCanadian's** crude oil hedging programme, lower selling prices and higher provisions for depreciation and depletion offset higher volumes.

Losses from **CP's** stake in **Canadian Pacific Forest Products** increased C\$25.7 million to C\$152.7 million, reflecting lower newsprint, pulp and white paper prices. Earnings from **CP's** 18.9 per cent stake in **Laidlaw Inc** rose C\$9.2 million to C\$10.1 million over the comparative six-month period.

Marathon Realty's earnings rose C\$50.8 million to C\$123 million. Sales of two office buildings and a 50 per cent stake in three buildings and a development site boosted the result.

Hartwell makes bid for **Trimoco**

Hartwell makes bid for Trimoco

BY MARTIN WALLER

HARTWELL, the motor dealer bought by the Saudi Arabian **Jameel Group** in 1990, has launched a £25.9 million cash offer for **Trimoco**, the quoted motor dealer, after conversion of loan stock pushed its holding over 30 per cent.

The offer is pitched at 17.5p a share, the **Trimoco** share price yesterday, and was launched after the market closed last night. **Trimoco** has in the past enjoyed friendly relations with its biggest shareholders, and two **Jameel** nominees sit on its board. Roger Smith, the **Trimoco** chairman, has a corresponding seat on the **Hartwell** board.

The three non-executives will now resign their posts for legal reasons to prevent any conflict of interest.

Hartwell owned 29.8 per cent of **Trimoco** and 92 per cent of the convertible unsecured loan stock. The conversion rights to the latter have now been exercised and as a result **Hartwell** will have 39.4 per cent, which under Stock Exchange rules requires it to launch a bid.

Hartwell says that if the offer is a success, prospects for **Trimoco's** business would be enhanced.

Midland Bank to guide its Polish twin

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER being burned in America and bought by Hong Kong, **Midland** has still not lost its taste for foreign adventure. The listing bank has enrolled in a crash course of teach-yourself-Polish, after twinning with a struggling lender from Wroclaw.

As part of a \$20 million project sponsored by the World Bank, **Midland** has been twinned with **Bank Zachodni**, a privatised part of Poland's state bank. **Midland** is sending up to ten managers on tours to **Zachodni** to teach its executives how to survive in a market economy.

Some might question whether **Midland**, which made profits of only £36 million last year, because of bad debts, is the right institution to teach the Poles how to bank. But it can certainly demonstrate the pitfalls of western banking from its own experience. Its first lesson is probably never to buy anything called **Crocker**.

Zachodni is one of nine regional

institutions that were formed by the break-up of the dominant central bank. Seven of these have now been twinned with Western institutions. Other banks in the project include the **Bank of Ireland**, **AIB Group** and **Internationale Nederlanden**.

Midland has thrown itself into the mammoth task of helping **Zachodni**, which has 70 branches around Wroclaw, to turn itself into a western-style lender. The bank is pulling up to ten of its managers out of their peaceful jobs at home and sending them to Poland on three-week tours.

Midland's managers' first barrier is language. They are doing their best to learn Polish but, in some cases there are no words to describe the risks they are trying to promote, such as risk management. In the past, lending in Poland was almost risk-free because one part of the state was simply advancing funds to another.

Naturally, **Midland** is not doing all this work for love. The bank hopes its twin will help **Midland Montagu**, the investment bank, win important privatisation work. While **Midland** is keen to expand its trade finance business in Poland as the economy begins to recover.

By then, **Midland** hopes that its twin will be tending its balance sheet, in western-style, like an old hand.

caused by the upheavals in the local mining industry.

Midland is advising **Zachodni** on how to update its antiquated systems, which will also be funded by the World Bank. In the past, some Polish banks have been sold unsuitable computers and software by western salesmen. Many of the machines are gathering dust in basements.

Marketing is also a difficult concept for **Zachodni** and its rivals, because, until recently, they never had any competition. Overall, though, **Midland** is teaching **Zachodni** about strategy and how to win an advantage over the country's other banks.

Naturally, **Midland** is not doing all this work for love. The bank hopes its twin will help **Midland Montagu**, the investment bank, win important privatisation work. While **Midland** is keen to expand its trade finance business in Poland as the economy begins to recover.

By then, **Midland** hopes that its twin will be tending its balance sheet, in western-style, like an old hand.

TI Group – Half Year 1992

	1992	1991
Pre-tax profit	£50.2m	£54.2m
Earnings per share	10.2p	11.4p
Dividend	3.7p	3.5p

"Our existing world-leader businesses, **John Crane** and **Bundy**, have performed well in the continuing difficult economic environment, producing growth in both sales and profits.

We are pleased that the acquisition of **Dowty** has provided us with the opportunity to create a third world-leader business which will strengthen TI's position for the future."

Christopher Lewinton, Chairman



TI Group is one of Europe's leading specialised engineering groups. Its three core, global businesses are **Bundy International** fluid carrying systems, **John Crane International** engineered sealing systems and **Dowty Group** landing gear, propellers, hydraulic systems, engine rings, electronic systems and components. For further information, contact the Department of Public Affairs, TI Group plc, World Operating Headquarters, Lambourn Court, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1UH England.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the directors of TI Group plc are responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Price Waterhouse, a firm authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

Buxton's highlighted week may be a resolution. It has told the P. Charles ill consider £500,000 a scheme cultural jewel art of York coupled for

authorities of the hotel which

as of the letter to

Stevens to the

English Heritage

far from us that he

is not the

make the

Lee the

can wear

and. The

is already

all cap as

for

has

all clothed

at the

in New

London,

an and

session.

called

jeans,

and, i

street-

thing

<p

Lamb foiled by a ruse

Runs flow so Essex face draw as realistic option

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (first day of three; Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 366 for seven wickets against Essex)

CHELMSFORD in August is the domain of the spinner. The square here is parched, so much so that Allan Lamb, Northamptonshire's captain, vetoed the idea of using the same pitch on which Essex played the Pakistanis in their last match on the grounds that the ball would turn too much, too soon.

Even so, the ball spun sufficiently on the pitch the captains ultimately settled upon to leave no one in any doubt as to how this match would be decided. Having won the toss and made runs aplenty through centurions from Lamb, Capel, Fordham and Felton, Northamptonshire have left Essex with a draw as their only realistic

option. It is as well for Essex that pitches in the South East are so dry as for two spinners to be played as a matter of course. Yesterday, for example, their attack was opened by two uncapped bowlers with Stephenson on as first change.

For the remainder of the season Essex must get by without Foster and, for that matter, Waugh.

For them to be leading the champion in a season in which Foster and Pringle have

taken only 44 first-class wickets

between them for the county emphasises just how unimaginative their cricket has been. Not least has this been so when it has come to arranging a finish on the final day.

Dust was billowing across the square before lunch yesterday, indicative of the importance of the toss. Before lunch Childs was gaining a little turn: come early evening he

bowled Ripley with one that spun right across him. In the interim Northamptonshire made sufficient runs to win this match, which they have to do if they are not to give up all hope of a first championship.

Fordham and Felton began with their fourth century opening partnership of the season and there was one of similar length and rather more vigor by Lamb and Capel in the afternoon. The odd chance went awry, notably to Garnham, whose proficiency with the bat is keeping him in the Essex side, but Lamb in this form would have made runs against anybody.

Since he was dropped by England he has made 676 in eight first-class innings. Indeed, the water of runs he takes off county attacks whenever he is omitted is such as to preclude coincidence. At one point he put Childs out of the attack with a four swept as fine as is possible, followed by a crashing six over long off.

This should have been his third century in succession. It took a brave captain to turn to leg spin at a time when Lamb had made 83 and Capel had reached his half-century still more quickly (81 balls) but the ruse worked. Lamb swung Shahid to deep mid-wicket, where Hussain held the catch.

They had put on 121 in 30 overs and the dominance of bat over ball was never so marked thence forward. All seven wickets fell to the three spinners, who bowled 76 of the day's overs.

AQIB Javed, the Pakistani fast bowler, wants to play for Yorkshire next season and a letter has been sent to Sir Lawrence Byford, the president and chairman of the county, outlining his availability (Martin Steele writes).

Aqib, aged 20 today, is a free agent since Hampshire decided to offer Malcolm Marshall a further contract and is "desperately keen" to play county cricket next season. Sachin Tendulkar, York-

shire's first overseas player, has been a success with the county's members. But his future is uncertain because India plan a tour to Sri Lanka next summer.

Chris Hassell, the county's chief executive, is trying to confirm the arrangements with the Indian authorities before a meeting later this month, of Yorkshire's cricket committee, one of whose members said: "We are crying out for a bowler."

Aqib's offer to Yorkshire

shire's first overseas player, has been a success with the county's members. But his future is uncertain because India plan a tour to Sri Lanka next summer.

Chris Hassell, the county's chief executive, is trying to

confirm the arrangements with the Indian authorities before a meeting later this month, of Yorkshire's cricket committee, one of whose members said: "We are crying out for a bowler."

Donald takes full advantage

By RICHARD STREETON

TAUNTON (first day of three; Somerset won toss; Warwickshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 218 runs behind Somerset)

ALL the sense of purpose to be expected of a team well placed in the championship race was on view from Warwickshire yesterday. Allan Donald bowled at his fastest to send two Somerset batsmen to hospital with hand injuries and only a hard-hitting 74 by Ken MacLeay, at No. 7, enabled Somerset to reach 278.

Donald knew he had to compensate for an attack weakened by Munton, Small and Reeve and extracted the maximum bounce from a hard pitch. Hayhurst retired after being hit by the fourth ball of the match and Harden at 80 in Donald's second spell.

Both were struck on the left hand. Hayhurst suffered

bruising and a dislocated im-

Donald pushed two to the helmet.

MacLeay was well into his stride before he was confronted by Donald. He began with several, forceful drives and pulls against the spinners and continued to hit freely as he made his best championship score. MacLeay had his 13 fours and faced 76 balls when caught at short third man.

For once even Lathwell was forced to make a careful start. When Lathwell did begin to break free he quickly fell into a trap by Lloyd. For Smith's bowling, two short mid-wickets and a short square-leg were posted to thwart Caddick and was caught behind.

Perhaps Gatting sensed that a fourth-innings run chase was inevitable and for that reason preferred to bat again last. Certainly, he did the Kent

Bird keeps his pills handy as the pressure mounts

By PETER BALL

THE Pakistani call for neutral umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said. "But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

He agreed that a panel of international umpires might offer the way forward as the pressure mounts. "Have a panel of 14 umpires," Bird said.

"But the captains of the Test countries should get together and select the best 14 from all over the world. Getting two umpires from each country is not the way to do it. If Australia come to England and are happy with two English umpires from the panel, I am happy with two English umpires from the panel," Bird said.

THE Pakistani call for neutral

umpires received some encouragement from Dicky Bird yesterday. Bird, who is widely recognised as England's outstanding umpire, is looking forward with some relish to tomorrow's decisive fifth Test against Pakistan at the Oval.

"There is no sporting event to match a Test, not even the Olympic Games," Bird said at a lunch in his honour at the Oval yesterday. But he is conscious that the pressures on him and David Shepherd have increased considerably in recent years.

"There's too much money come into the sport," Bird said. "It has brought massive appealing into the game. There is nothing in the laws to stop it, but it has crept into the game and it's very sad. It has put pressure on us umpires. I don't think we realise how much it has taken out of us. I've bought my blood pressure pills with me."

Bird, it is safe to say, has

survived the pressure in good order. Tomorrow's match will be his 47th Test, only one short of Frank Chester's record of 48. "I'd love to get 50 Tests more than anything," Bird said. "I think I've got another two to three years in me. I had a medical in April and passed with flying colours. I keep myself pretty fit. I do my exercises in the bathroom every morning."

Kenyans angered by reinstatement of Skah

FROM JOHN GOODBODY
IN BARCELONA

KENYA'S athletics team in Barcelona were still seething last night at the reinstatement of Khalid Skah, of Morocco, as winner of the 10,000 metres. A team official, however, dismissed any suggestions of protest action over the incident.

Isaiah Kiplagat, the Kenyan *chef de mission*, said that a boycott of remaining events was "not a way to solve anything. All we want is a fair hearing". Kenya have protested that Skah had been unfairly paced by his compatriot,

Hammou Boutayeb, and deprived Richard Chelimo of the gold medal.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) yesterday reversed the decision of the referees, who had originally disqualified the Moroccan. It is the first time that a runner has been disqualified and then reinstated as the winner in an Olympic track race since Chris Brasher, of Britain, in the 1956 steeplechase.

Kiplagat said that the Kenyan delegation reserved "the right to take whatever other action may be deemed necessary" as a result of the IAAF's decision.

But he emphasised this would not include the team withdrawing from the Games.

The IAAF is not planning to hold another meeting to discuss the affair. Ismail Gylal, its secretary general, said: "The decision is final."

As a result of the decision, Chelimo gets the silver medal and Adis Abebe, of Ethiopia, the bronze, with Salvatore Antibo, of Italy, fourth.

The IAAF's seven-man court of appeal yesterday up-

held Skah's protest after a 20-minute meeting. It examined an American television film of the race, in which Boutayeb, who had been lapped, ran alongside Skah and Chelimo for about 1,000 metres. IAAF sources said that Skah appeared to be gesturing to his compatriot to leave them alone. On the final lap, Skah outsped the Kenyan.

The court of appeal, whose verdict is final, looked carefully at regulation 143 (2), which specifically prohibits "pacing in races by persons not participating in the race, by runners or walkers lapped or about to be lapped".

John Venzen, the technical

director for the Kenyans, said the team had accepted the decision. "But we will still write to the IAAF complaining about the conduct of the Moroccans."

According to John Bicourt, the former British long-distance runner who is now Chelimo's manager, keeping the gold medal will cost him \$50,000 over the next four years. Bicourt said there was no way that Skah was not complicit. "He gestured and talked to Boutayeb. Can you say, as a bystander, it would not have affected Chelimo's concentration?"

Frank Dick, who is presi-

dent of the European Coaches' Association, said, as a British official, is less subjective, expressed concern at the IAAF decision, saying that the whole future of the sport "in terms of fair conduct is in jeopardy". He added: "You only have to think what will happen if he put a bracket mark there."

Certainly, the prevailing feeling among people who are not involved in the controversy is that the rules are inadequately worded and must be clarified by the world body.

David Miller, page 25

800 metres title beckons for Briton

Robb prepared to succeed where Coe failed

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA



Syringe protest, page 1
Simon Barnes, page 14
Hockey defeat, page 24
Results, page 25

in which he has won the United Kingdom and AAA senior titles.

Following the lead of Roger Black, Robb has put down his medical studies to work at his athletics. But, unlike Black, he regards the position as temporary and wants to resume later in the year. "If the day came when I had to choose, it would have to be medicine," he said. "Who is this guy?" he asked.

At the age of 32, Gray forms a link between Britain past and present. He ran in the 1984 Olympic final against Coe and Steve Ovett and in 1988 against Peter Elliott. Now Robb has come along.

Who is this guy?" he asked.

Gray did not win a medal in either final but this year set a

United States record of 1 min 42.80sec in the Olympic trial.

That day he ran from the front and is unlikely to alter his game plan. By contrast, his compatriot, Mark Everett, has a devastating, if ungainly finish; watch for him coming off the bend from way back.

The other big gun is Jose Luis Barboza, of Brazil, sixth in Seoul. But, when you add it all up, this is hardly a vintage final and Robb may never have a better chance. "A lot of people can win it but they have got to get past me to do that," he said.

Robb's fellow British former European junior champion, David Grindley, is considered by some to have greater potential at 800 metres than at 400 metres and may one day find himself out there with Robb.

But today the greatest moment of his 19-year life comes in the one lap. His appearance in the final is more of a surprise than Robb's.

Grindley set a British record of 44.47sec in his semi-final on Monday, a welcome sight given the elimination of Roger Black and Derek Redmond.

He did not beat him and he can take off a few hundredths more, he might finish fifth or sixth. But a medal may not be within his reach. Quincy Watts, of the United States, is the strong favourite.

The gold medal went

to Jesper Bank, of Denmark, who beat Mahaney 2-0 in the final. Bank, who injured his left leg two months ago and was still in a wheelchair last week, has saluted the

gold medal.

Smith is a first rate yachtsman and he had a crew to match his skills. All that the

two-time America's Cup skip-

per lacked was match-race practice at the same level.

Smith withdrew from the

match-race finals at the Soling

world championship, and the

French pre-Olympic regatta at Hyères, saying that he did not want to teach rivals anything about his own tactics.

Instead, they practised pri-

ately against Eddie Warden-

Owen, Andy Beardsworth and

Southworth, but this jousting

could never replicate the

pressures of racing head-to-

head in active competition.

In their first race against

Mahaney, the British crew

before her first round. After

two rounds, nothing has

changed.

Gunnell was the fastest

qualifier from the semi-finals

on Monday, running her

quickest time of the season,

53.78sec. She did so without

being pressed. Her two most

likely challengers, Natalya

Ledovskaya and Sandra

Farmer-Patrick, were in the

other semi-final.

After finishing second in

the world championship in Tokyo

last year, Gunnell watched the

success of her race only once.

"I want to forget about it," she said. "It will be a different

matter if she wins tonight.

One should read little into

the fact that Ledovskaya, the

world champion from Minsk,

was third in the other semi-

final, almost a second slower

than Gunnell. Or that she has

not broken 54 seconds this

season. Knowing Ledovskaya,

Gunnell said last week, she

would "scrape through the

rounds and peak on the big

day".

Make no mistake,

Ledovskaya is the favourite,

with Gunnell and Farmer-

Patrick, of the United States,

next in the queue. "There are

really five or six of us who

could win," Gunnell said.

COUNT in that number, Mar-

garita Ponomaryova and Vera

Ordina, of the Unified Team,

and Janeane Vickers, of the

United States.

After the hurdles had

their final, the 400 metres flat

numbers have their

surprise appearance. A surprise

makeup is being made by

Phyllis Smith, whose 50.48sec

in the semi-finals has been

bettered among British

women only by Kathy Cook

and Marie-José Pérec, of France,

is the title favourite, with Olga

Bryzgina, of the Unified

Team, her likely closest

challenger.

Michael had just four faults

on Monsanta and John had a

superb clear round, lifting

Brum into joint fifth place at

the halfway stage.

In the second round, Skelton

cleared the last fence but

had eight faults. Grubb col-

lected eight again. Michael

Whitaker hit the first part of

the treble to finish on four and

John Whitaker, on Milton,

had a foot in the water.

Michael had just four faults

on Monsanta and John had a

superb clear round, lifting

Brum into joint fifth place at

the halfway stage.

In the second round, Skelton

cleared the last fence but

had eight faults. Grubb col-

lected eight again. Michael

Whitaker hit the first part of

the treble to finish on four and

John Whitaker, on Milton,

had a foot in the water.

Michael had just four faults

on Monsanta and John had a

superb clear round, lifting

Brum into joint fifth place at

the halfway stage.

In the second round, Skelton

cleared the last fence but

had eight faults. Grubb col-

lected eight again. Michael

Whitaker hit the first part of

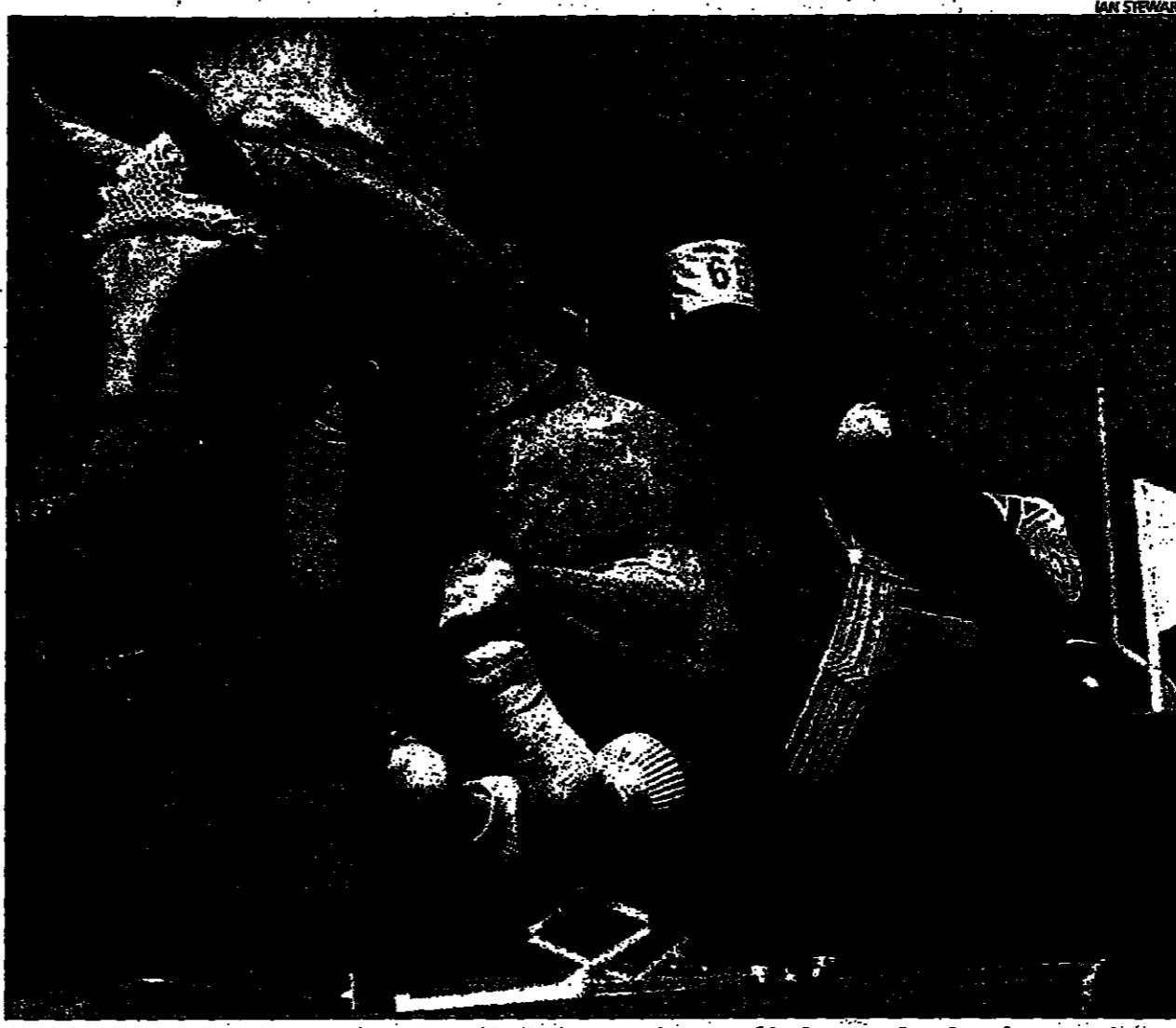
the treble to finish on four and

John Whitaker, on Milton,

had a foot in the water.

The gold medal eventually

went to South Korea.



Up and over: John Whitaker, of Britain, guides Milton to a clear round in the team show jumping yesterday

Gunnell nears her biggest hurdle

FROM DAVID POWELL

THE British men's team captain, Linford Christie, led by example; now it is the turn of the women's team leader, Sally Gunnell. She will be running



WOMEN p5
Why Gail
Brewer
Giorgio knows
that Elvis lives



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1992

HOMES p7
Rachel Kelly
on homes that
grow old
with you



TS 3
RIEF
S FOR
DN?

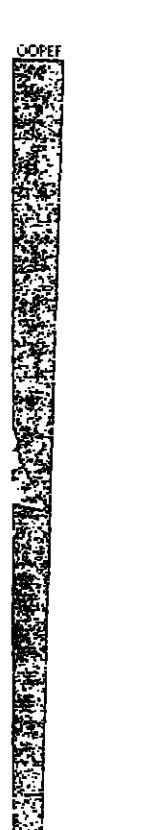
Buxton's de-
highlighted
week may be
t resolution has
told the P. Charles
ill consider
f £500,000
a scheme
central jewel
arr of York
coupled for

is collabora-
authorities
mers of the
otel to high
ost of the
a letter to
Stevens
e to use
glish Heri-
quarters:
far from
ys that he
it is not
, save the
immediate
ed that £2
make the

Lee the
can wear
are. The
is already
all cap as
orm for
tiers, has
ail clothed at
the geles, fol-
s in New
London,
an and
scussion.
re called
er jeans,
ts, and t-
h street-



the
of the
Covent
come
Romeo
Asyl-
Cofan
lovers
leaving
and
ondon
om as
noon.
Irk
e the
There
erfor-
: with
Fiona



iti-
os of
re all
re id
rs ce
ce n

How we wish that you were all here

Peter Barnard thinks the West Country's summertime blues could mark the beginning of better British holidays

The Olympian summer trek southwest has as its last two laps 80 miles of the M5 ending at Exeter and then 40 miles of the A38, which crosses into Cornwall near Plymouth. Along the route, the signs say "Welcome to Devon" and "Welcome to Cornwall". Nobody has yet added "for sale" to either, but to do so would be only a small exaggeration.

Behind the headline figures of a 25 per cent drop in tourist business around the country, there is in the South West a much bigger story. There are now so many hotels and guest houses on the market in Devon and Cornwall that you might as well go to a receiver as an estate agent to buy such a business.

Ask how many hotels are for sale in Torbay, Devon's premier resort, and the reply "all of them" is not entirely a common local joke. Go to Newquay, Cornwall's largest resort, in search of a private home and you may be advised that buying a small hotel and converting it could be cheaper.

In Torbay last week I was offered bargains which seemed so startling that I had to make a local receiver repeat the figures, twice: a hotel with more than 40 bedrooms in full running order, priced at only £250,000. And there are plenty more where that came from.

The problem is only partly that tourists numbers have fallen. If putative tourists have no money, they can always stay at home or pitch a tent. But a couple who paid £800,000 for a 40-bed hotel a decade or more ago will often have borrowed at least half of the capital. Now, many of them cannot pay it back. So they are forced to sell.

As we know from a series of corporate calamities, banks are often no better than surveyors at spotting the one distinguishing feature of an otherwise solid looking building: the writing on the wall. The writing has been on the wall of hotels and guest houses for several years but now, suddenly, everyone can read. In the uncertain meteorological climate of the South West, the old joke is singularly appropriate: banks lend you an umbrella when the sun is out and ask for it back in the rain.

Yet behind the gloom there are indications of a brighter future, one in which vast over-growth has been brutally expunged by recession, a future with a slimmer, more sophis-

ticated industry. Finding precise figures is tricky, because hotels do not normally put up "for sale" signs (bad for business) and many are not formally in the hands of agents. But reliable estimates have it that of the 800 to 1,000 hotels and guest houses in Torbay, at least 300 are for sale. Another 100 are said to be for sale in Newquay. In the small and picturesque south Cornish fishing town of Mevagissey, at least nine — which is to say, most — hotels and guest houses are open to offers.

Asking a desperate hotelier to talk on the record about his plight in the middle of the holiday season is like asking Santa Claus to admit that he is snowed-in on Christmas eve. As with a plane crash, only the survivors are talking.

One of the survivors is Patrick Grist, 55, a former merchant mariner who bought the Headlands Hotel at Mevagissey seven years ago. His hotel is one of the best in the area, it offers excellent food (at £11 for a five-course dinner) and half-board is a maximum of £23 a week peak season. Most of Mr Grist's guests either come back year after year or are recommended by people who do.

He says: "It has been hard but we survive. The holidaymakers who have all but disappeared are the young couples, they are clearly feeling the pinch. But the hoteliers who have suffered, some to the extent of going out of business, are ones who simply borrowed too much. Some of these people have been their own worst enemy. We had a local hotel that offered two nights for the price of one through a scheme in a newspaper and they did good business for a while but now they're empty. You can cut prices too much. People get a half-price deal at a hotel and instead of coming back next time they go looking for a half-price deal somewhere else."

Mr Grist believes that value matters more than price. Flexibility is part of value: offering good food, giving people, for example, Thursday-to-Thursday stays rather than on the standard Saturday changeover, offering some sort of in-house entertainment ... these are among the factors that can make the difference between survival and calamity.

The value-against-cheapness argument is a clue to one of the key

underlying problems in places such as Mevagissey and Newquay. I was born in Cornwall and brought up across the Devon border in Plymouth. For me, Cornwall is a magical kingdom and for many years Mevagissey was a favourite haunt. Last week I found it a changed place. In search of business, Mevagissey has plunged down-market, into the very sector where money is tightest. "Meva" is still picturesque, but the harbour front is now a mish-mash of tourist shops and budget joints, cheap trinkets tacked like a pelmet over a plain fine curtain.

Mevagissey used to be a place people visited on day trips from the larger resorts in which they stayed. Once Mevagissey started to be a resort in its own right the set in, because being a resort means being self-contained, and self-contained means adding on the sort of entertainment that, by definition, detracts from quaintness, which in marketing jargon was Mevagissey's unique selling point. On a larger scale, Newquay is the same: the old elegance has all but disappeared to be replaced by a sprawl of surf shops and gaudy amusement arcades.

Jack Arthur stands on the life-boat slipway at Mevagissey, in the circumstances a symbolic location. He has a weather-beaten face and an all-weather smile, the sort you might put on a postcard. If you did, interestingly, the postcard will be selling at a cut price of 15p, or four for 40p, prices that have not gone up for two years. Nor has the cost of

renting a little motor boat (£7 an hour) from Mr Arthur, an alert man of 78 years with a finger in several pies: boat hire, the town's model railway, half-a-dozen holiday cottages and that.

Mr Arthur considered the state of the tourist industry. "I started out here in 1948," he said, "renting out boats like these for 2s/6d an hour.

The post-war boom was in sight then and in the 1950s Mevagissey had a golden era.

"But all that has changed now.

This year is pretty bad, in fact I've stopped the holiday letting and now we let year round, mostly to elderly people. It's not big money but at least it's steady, whereas with holiday letting you can never tell if anyone will come."

Often they do not. Nor is Mevagissey much helped by the trim but forlorn looking cottages that line the western side of the harbour, mostly second homes. These are occupied by the owner for perhaps two weeks a year and let out at other times of the summer. But this business, too, has been hit hard. A stroll past these cottages reveals more closed shutters than open windows.

What is to be done? I had thought that cheap foreign holidays were an important part of the problem, but they are only a symptom. If you shop around, you can get a fortnight in Cornwall as cheaply as a fortnight in Spain, especially as the former's guaranteed sun means you do not have to build in the costs of indoor entertainment. But presumably the

missing young couples can no longer afford a holiday in Spain than in Cornwall.

The heart of the problem is supply and demand. Hindsight makes it easy to see that the boom times of the 1960s and 1970s could not possibly last. A boom is temporary but debt is not and when a boom goes bust a debt has nothing to feed on. So the shake-out is under way, a squeezing of the people who borrowed too much and came to the business with too little knowledge. Even the survivors will have to change, offering more weekend and four-day breaks to people taking their main holidays elsewhere.

Terry Nickels is a partner in Bishop Fleming Accountants, based in Torquay and covering the whole of Devon and Cornwall. Mr Nickels specialises in hotels and is handling a number as receiver. He says: "Usually what happens is that whoever lent the money for a hotel has simply said 'enough is enough'.

The banks are saying 'you promised us the earth at the start of season but you haven't delivered, we want our money'.

"When you look into these business failures you often find that two factors have destroyed them: they borrowed too much and they took no advice. They thought that if they opened the doors and did a bit of advertising, people would come. But often they have advertised in the wrong places. They haven't taken advice because that costs money and they think they can manage alone.

"Obviously some good people have suffered, but I think most of them are in the category I described. Bad management is at the top of our list of reasons for a failed hotel business. But failure isn't universal. It's the middle sized and big places, in other words the big debts, that have brought people down. Many smaller places are doing reasonably well."

Mr Nickels believes that forced sales through receivership and liquidations will, indeed, shake-out the market. If so, Cornwall, still the most popular UK tourist destination, will recover the one industry it desperately needs as fishing and farming decline and tin mining vanishes altogether.

After all, it is a very beautiful place and these days is a far cry from the trip undertaken by Mrs Celia Fiennes in 1698, who found

crossing the River Tamar hard

enough: "I was at least an hour in going over, about a mile," she wrote later. "And notwithstanding there were five men rowing, and I set my men to row also, I do believe we made not a step of way for almost a quarter of an hour. But, blessed be to God, I came safely over at last, although those ferry boats are so wet that I never fail to catch cold in them, as I did this day."

The ferries are dry now and carry cars. There is also a three-lane bridge. When Mrs Fiennes reached St Austell, which is five miles from Mevagissey, she stayed in a small guest house and her landlady brought her "one of the west country tarts which was the most acceptable entertainment that could be made me".

So perhaps Cornwall's future is in its past: small scale and with personal service. Simpler, smaller pleasures may be the county's salvation, but the route back to a viable industry is as stormy as the one Mrs Fiennes discovered, and just as long. For indebted hoteliers, it is a race against time; long-term is no longer a phrase that is available to them. The problem, as the economist John Maynard Keynes observed, is that "in the long run we are all dead".

TOMORROW

Hollywood in green mode: Geoff Brown reviews *FernGully*

OPP
time" with my cats, watching their favourite snooker videos with them and shouting at *The Archers* in a plucky imitation of me. I should do something similar with the herbs, perhaps. After all, I know she listens to Radio 3, and that she reads *The Independent*. An hour each day in their company, then, with the wireless blaring, and with me pretending to read her newspaper (exclaiming "Swipe me, how pompous" in an authentic *Independent* reader kind of way) might set them on the road to recovery.

Meanwhile I have started to wear my keys on a girdle, in the fashion of a Victorian housekeeper, shifting it from side to side on alternate days, to prevent curvature of the spine. I have always associated keys with the getting of wisdom, but since unlocking things seems to scare me so much (I lock them up again as quickly as possible) perhaps I should stick to the road of excess, instead. It is not much of an insight to boast of, in the end: that acting bored by *The Independent* might save the life of a flat-leaf parsley.

But soft! Methinks another basil dies

SINGLE LIFE: Lynne Truss on being her neighbour's keeper



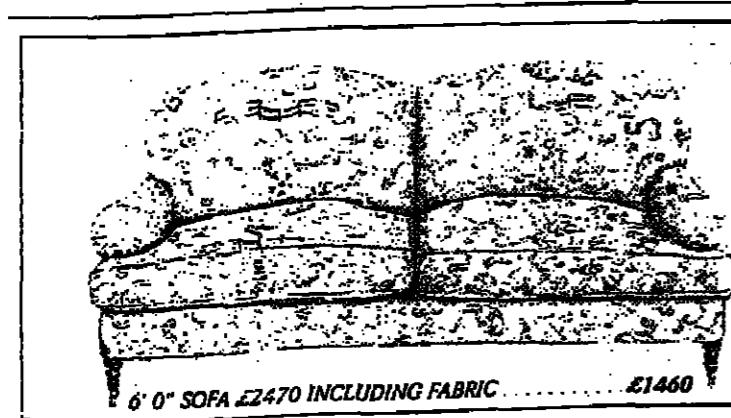
let themselves in, light a cigarette, put the kettle on, and start rummaging in your sock-drawer for interesting ticket-snubs, so that they can startle you a week later by asking "How was *Night of the Iguana*, by the way?" (leaving you to guess their source of information). Obviously this is the sort of fish-food sprinkler to avoid, but sometimes you don't recognise them until it is too late. Once a friend of mine asked a chronically inquisitive chap actually to reside in her flat for a week while she took a holiday, and rashly ignored the warning signals when, immediately on hand-over, he whipped open cupboards and drawers in the manner of a professional burglar, saying "Anywhere you don't want me to look?" and "Oh how very interesting. Fond of pink."

gives me the creeps. The whole operation being so brief and automatic, I assume at midnight I must have got it all mixed up. Perhaps I sprinkled fish-food on the curtains. Perhaps I watered the cat.

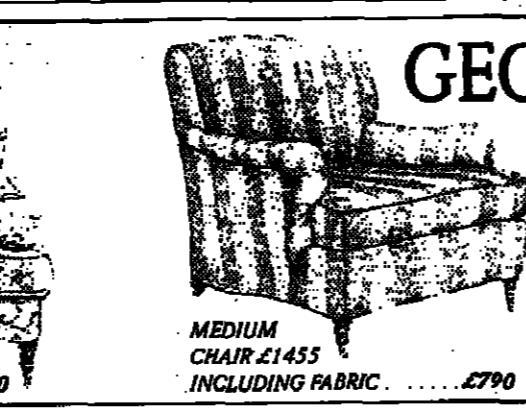
Of course, some people must do it differently. Keys give them the run of the place, and they love it. They

Pretty loud warning signals, really; but she was late for a plane, so took a quick mental inventory of sexually incriminating material and decided to risk it. On holiday (with me), she fantasised (with my help) that her house-sitter was currently waltzing around the living-room dressed in her most expensive evening-frock, boozing direct from the bottle and leafing through her teenage diaries. She never discovered whether this alarming picture had any basis in reality, but when she asked him "How was your stay?" he replied: "Well, it did fill a few gaps."

Having just popped out to see the herbs again, I can announce that a variegated sage has now turned purple ("The drink, the drink — I am poisoned"), and my sense of failure is complete. It occurs to me belatedly that the friend who cat-sits for me when I go on holiday makes a point of spending "quality



6'0" SOFA £2470 INCLUDING FABRIC



MEDIUM
CHAIR £1455
INCLUDING FABRIC



STANDARD
STOOL £235
INCLUDING FABRIC, OR IN KELIM £355

GEORGE SMITH TRADITIONALLY MADE QUALITY UPHOLSTERY

SUMMER SALE

**SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS
ON ITEMS TO ORDER FROM OUR COMPLETE RANGE
OF FURNITURE, FABRIC, LOOSE COVERS & KELIMS
STOCK ITEMS UP TO 50% OFF**

**587-589 KINGS ROAD SW6 • 071 384 1004
CUSTOMER CAR PARK AT REAR**

Who
autho

RICHARD III: Shakespeare's history play is given a new production by Sam Mendes for the Royal Shakespeare Company, with Simon Russell Beale in the lead role. After the success of the last production, planned to tour the regions despite the company's failure to find a sponsor.

Theatre Royal, Stratford-upon-Avon 0795 2356231, previews, tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, opens Tues, 7pm.

PORCELAIN: Loneliness and murder in a homophobe's corner of London. Lunan Theatre's powerful staging of the adaptation of a 19th-century Chinese play. Openings night.

Theatre upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730 2530, tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS: Final UK performance of a tremendously funny version of this timeless swashbuckler. Every jibe lovingly exaggerated by the 17th-century French. Theatres upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730 2530, tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

BBC PROMS '92: The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jerry Malmstrom makes its eighth annual appearance in the Albert Hall. In the first of two Proms concerts (7pm), both with an emphasis on the music of eastern Europe, the orchestra plays Haydn's *Symphony No. 94 in E flat*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*, and Stravinsky's *Violin Concerto* in D, with the young Greek Leonidas Kavakos as soloist.

Tonight, a late-night concert is given by the Czech ensemble Smetana, with principal conductor Tomas Vassary. The programme comprises Chopin's *Andante Spianato* and *Grande Polonoise*, Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major*, Dvorak's *Pastorale* and Kodaly's *Dances of Galantha*.

Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 1071-823 9998, 7pm and 10pm.

ABSENT FRIENDS: Abybim's bleak, at times case-study of modern man's subtle, dramatic, shrewd and deftly acted (Gary Bond, Susie Blake, Cheryl Moran) *Homeless*, King Street, W6 1071-941 2511, Mon-Sat, 7-8.30pm, mat. Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

AS YOU LIKE IT: Some nice touches animate the love stories in Morna Aron's straightforward production. Open Air, Regent's Park NW1 071-485 2411, tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 4pm, mat. today, 5pm, Sat, 2.30pm, Sun, 12.30pm.

DEATH AND THE MADNET: Angel Coulby's superbly psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Geraldine James, Michael Byrne and Paul Freeman play their final week.

Dates of York's St Martin's Lane, WC1 071-835 5225, mat. Sat, 6pm, Mat. Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 2.30pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical safety valve. Better in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 071-562 95621, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 7.30pm, 12.30pm.

FROM JACK TO KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top. A quirk of rock bands and the West End's social Ambassadors. West Street, London WC2 071-836 6111, Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, 8.30pm, 10pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE II: Nigel Hawthorne & very little as the 18th-century king in this intriguing, slightly playful, play. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 071-926 2252, tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat. tomorrow, 2.15pm, 7.30pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Acted in a pool of mud, Robin Lepage's much-praised production is now inundated with musical images.

National (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 071-926 2252, tonight, 7.15pm, mat. tomorrow, Sat, 2pm, 4.30pm.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and pit their wits against each other, run-of-the-mill this time. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 071-336.

NEW RELEASES

FAIR AND AWAY (12): Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman flee from Ireland to America. Lumbering immigrant epic with predictable punch.

Dir: Ron Howard. Cinerama Parkway 071-257 7034.

EMPIRE (71-335 9772): MGM's Baker Street (071-335 9772) MGM's Fulham road (071-335 9773) UCI Whitley 071-335 9772.

NEGOTIATION (15): Five tragicomic encounters in five night-time tarts. Uneven but amiable Jim Jarmusch's *Compadres*. Roberto Benigni, Gena Rowlands, Béatrice Dalle, and others. Dir: Jim Jarmusch. Cinerama Plaza 071-405 24431 Gate 071-727 40430, Lumière 071-836 0691.

CURRENT

• BATMAN RETURNS (12): Curly but well-crafted, here when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Jack Palance, and Batman. Dir: Tim Burton. Cinerama Parkway 071-257 7034.

• THE LION KING (12): The Mail on Sunday's *Cartoon*, London SW1, 071-926 2252. The Mail on Sunday's *Cartoon*, London SW1, 071-926 2252.

ME AND MY GIRL (12): The Lambeth Walk.

Nightly at 7.30 Mat. Wed, 8.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS (12): Theatres upstairs, Royal Court, London SW1, 071-926 2252.

MISS SAIGON (12): Adventures of a lawyer defending a murder charge down South. Usticam comic vehicle for Joe Pesci, bright support from Manda Christopher Cacchione.

TICKET INFORMATION supplied by Society of West End Theatres.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

HOLLAND PARK: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm). The Holland Park, Holland Park, London W8 071-602 7656.

ROSE ENGLISH: Following the art show by English avant-garde director Ian Dury, the Royal Shakespeare Company presents its latest piece *My Mathematics*. The piece comes complete with an accompaniment of a piano.

MEXICAN PAINTED BOOKS: Through the impact of Europe on the Americas was in most ways culturally disastrous, some artistic traditions continued after the fall of the Aztecs.

ARTURO SANDOVAL: The versatile Cuban trumpeter plays classical music with the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado. The second half plays very virtuous jazz with his regular players.

BARKERS: Great, old fashioned heavy rock from the American band on these shores for the first time to promote their sound album, *Influence*.

SHANE PHRIMES: The singer-songwriter from the USA performs his latest piece *My Mathematics*.

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *Albert Herring* (tomorrow, 7, 30pm).

SHREWD: The summer season of open-air theatre continues with Remond Ovret's staging of *La Bohème*

Whodunit? The author, of course

Crime writer Derek Raymond reveals his real name and an extraordinary history, when questioned by Margaret Park

Robin Cook is emaciated in the way heavy drinkers often are. He sits alone at a small table in a Soho pub, looking frail, with the sleeves of his shirt rolled up high to expose thin, white arms, and a black beret jammed like a peaked cap onto the front of his head. It is 2pm, but Cook has not been up long. He writes at night. This morning he emerged from his current struggle with death and depravity — a novel he calls *Dead Man Upright* — at 7am, slept for four hours and then, as normal, set off for the "Coach".

To readers of crime fiction, Robin Cook is Derek Raymond, author of 11 exceptionally bloodthirsty novels. The BBC has just begun dramatising the four most recent, which will be turned into a drama series called *Dead at Night* for broadcast next year. It is hard to imagine how the stories will be made fit for screening. Cook writes with a stomach-churning exactness about murder, madness and mutilation. His stories are peopled with psychopaths. Unspeakable acts take place in the upstairs rooms of vice clubs. In his last book, *I was Dora Suarez*, the killer follows a detailed dismemberment by axe with a spot of self-mutilation which leaves a vital organ shredded to a pulp.

Clearly, this is not everyone's taste. At least one publisher refused to touch it. "I threw up all over his desk, apparently," says Cook, with evident glee. At 61, he speaks with the exaggerated vowels of wartime Eton, a complete contrast to his gap-toothed, dishevelled appearance.

Why would anyone want to write such horror? The answer, dropped obliquely into his conversation, is that Cook is writing about his own life. He admits he has been "in-

volved" with more than one murder, but declines to explain how. "That's what I've tried not to say in my memoirs," he says lightly, shaking another Gitane from his packet.

The memoirs, entitled *Hidden Files*, in which he remembers very little about himself altogether, are published this month. The book is principally a dissertation on what he calls the "black novel", and apart from descriptions of a childhood marked by a mutual loathing between himself and his wealthy parents, reveals frustratingly little.

'He writes with a stomach-churning exactness about murder, madness and mutilation'

about Cook's past. There are tantalising glimpses of an early life of crime, the scams financed by East End thugs and fronted by young drop-outs from Eton: the five wives (the last divorce recently completed); a first novel at the age of 31; the years in which he chose to be a farm labourer in France and Italy; and constant restlessness during 40 years spent in at least nine countries.

From the day he got his nanny-sacked by running away, Cook has been disliked, it seems, by pretty well everybody close to him. He reckons that, mentally at least, he dropped out of his silver-spoon existence at the age of about three. "I thought God, what awful cards have I drawn

here? I couldn't wait to get out of it. I've always been on the downward staircase watching everybody else on the upward one."

He may have stepped away from the physical trappings of his class but he has not shaken off the upper-middle-class belief that it is not quite right to talk about oneself. Cook prefers to believe it was a later training that made him cautious: "When you work for the underworld, you very soon learn to keep it buttoned," he says sternly, drawing a line sharply across his mouth.

This is an odd stance from which to write an autobiography. But Cook seems surprised at the criticism. "It's a book about writing," he says. "If you don't talk about writing there wouldn't be much to talk about. There would just be one boring anecdote after another."

The anecdotes he does allow himself include the fake property company in the Sixties. Cook was the nominal managing director. It was his job to persuade banks and members of the public to invest in housebuilding on the south coast. No houses were ever built. The money was collected weekly by his employers: East End gangsters in Rolls-Royces.

Later Cook got himself arrested after several paintings, apparently given to him by a friend to sell, disappeared in Amsterdam. He was grilled for 17 hours by police working shifts around him. It was an experience that still amuses him.

This part of his life is described to some extent in his first novel, *The Crust on its Uppers*, which is reissued this month. First published in 1962, the novel is written in a Fifties' street slang which is so peculiar to its time that the book contains a glossary.

Much more of Cook, then, is in his novels than in his autobiography and he makes the violence of the former sound like a necessary catharsis: "What I'm doing, constantly, is trying to see how far I would be capable of doing such things myself," he says emphatically. "If I didn't think I was capable of something fairly considerable I wouldn't be writing like this, because the point of these books is to be as honest as you can."

Partly because of this un-broadcastable honesty, the BBC has bought the rights not to the novels but to the principal character in the later books, a manio-depressive detective sergeant who is never named.

Like Cook, his detective has a special knowledge of crime: his wife is in a mental asylum after murdering their child. Not surprisingly, the detective is an obsessive, policeman with no interest in promotion or reward, with an urge to plunge into the minds of the killers he pursues and a loosening grasp of the difference between law and criminality in his own actions.

Perhaps Cook's affection-starved childhood was a little like the disturbed infancy that is supposed to produce the psychopathic killer? "Wasn't it," he agrees with some satisfaction, his large, sunken eyes widening. "And I think that's the link. The difference is I managed to

find my way out of it by other means, thank God."

Cook is less celebrated in Britain than in France, where he was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres last year. The French director Claude Chabrol is filming *How the Dead Live*, his ninth book, with Philippe Noiret in the leading role.

"My readers are invariably people who are fascinated with the truth," he says, waving another Gitane.

"My greatest fans are nearly always people who've done time in jail or led very difficult, dodgy, hard lives."

• *Hidden Files* is published on August 13 (Scribner, £14.99), and *The Crust on its Uppers* is reissued on August 27 (Scribner, £7.99)

London Galleries: John Russell Taylor on an Indian painter who works in Britain

Britain may have become a multi-cultural society in the last few years, but the various constituent cultures still maintain their individuality, mixing and matching without becoming homogenised. An artist such as Anish Kapoor can remain poised between West and East, taking what he needs from both cultures.

Shanti Panchal, whose one-man show at the Festival Hall forms part of the current South Bank "Spirit of the Earth" Festival, is definitely more Asian. But the fact that he has lived in Britain since he was a student has left its mark on his style and even his subject-matter.

The fusion of worlds in his work is highly individual. He began painting when he was a child in Gujarat, valued for his gifts in decorating village walls for high days and holidays. In 1978 he won a British Council scholarship and came to London to study at the Byam Shaw School, which has overseen many such encounters between Eastern experience and Western training.

The manner of painting that Panchal has evolved belongs fully neither tradition: he paints in watercolours, on a large scale and with a density recalling Edward Burne-Jones, so that his glowingly coloured works look at first glance much more like oils or pastels, while the final texture recalls that of a fresco.

The subjects of the paintings mostly refer to Panchal's youth in India, or the way that he returns to it still in dreams (though seldom, apparently).

Scenes from a multi-cultural life and times

in person). But there are also images which show him to be conscious of the various roles his compatriots play in British life: scenes of people working in tailors' shops which could be back in India or in the East End of London, or of traditional ceremonies which carry on the same regardless of local subject.

The technique he has

evolved to deal with this has

overtones of certain kinds of

Indian popular art, and is

sometimes knowingly subverting the profile art of

Indian miniatures to his own

uses. He likes to create a

degree of removal in his

subjects, to suppress most evi-

dence of perspective so that the

pictures become a patchwork

of exquisitely subtle colours

which are almost flatly applied.

What makes a Panchal immediately recognisable, even across a crowded room at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (where he is showing for the first time this year), is above all the quality of the colour. In it, the brilliant tints of Indian textiles, and even Indian foodstuffs, are reduced to exquisite harmonies, rich but subdued, as though the works are somehow illuminated from the inside.

The technique is pecu-

liarily appropriate, given Panchal's preoccu-

pation with memory, in that

though his forms are quite

clearcut, they merge into a

pattern which seems to be

filtered through or veiled in a subjective view of the past.

Clearly there is little or nothing directly political about his art, and indeed he is the first to point out that he has been too long and deeply involved with Britain to retain any kind of crusading fervour about the misdeeds of the colonial past.

This degree of removal also, paradoxically, reduces the strangeness of the subject-matter. Panchal himself effortlessly bridges the two cultures and, seeming completely at home in both worlds, puts spectators at their ease.

The consequence is that his art comes over as deeply humane, a lesson in tranquillity from the artist's own philosophical calm. Even when signs of aggression do make an appearance in the paintings, they are neutralised and transfigured by the healing power of art.

• *Shanti Panchal's work is on show in the Foyer Galleries, Festi-*

val Hall, South Bank, SE1 1071-928 3002; Daily, 10am-10pm,

until August 16

PHYSICAL THEATRE

Tedious, puerile and in poor taste

Sweet Temptations QEII

When the first people rose from their seats and walked out about 20 minutes into Jan Fabre's *Sweet Temptations* on Sunday night, my heart rose with them. At least I was not alone in my reaction to the appalling, amateurish-sounding offstage voices during the long prologue, while a man sits alone on the stage and oranges, propelled from the wings, roll past him.

A joke striptease did little to redeem the gloom; figures appearing briefly to shout, squeal or creak various mad messages lowered the spirits further. Two men in wheelchairs, caricatures of Stephen Hawking, began the first version of their long, slow, lugubrious, repeatedly recurring discussions about a wooden owl. There was also the first of many imitation orgies. More and more spectators departed.

By the halfway point in this three-and-a-half-hour, no-interv-

erval show the trickle of

people walking out became a

stream. Might it turn into a

flood and empty the hall, so

that I, too, could go? Alas, no.

Since Jan Fabre arrives

hailed as a serious theatre

artist, and since his reputation

secured the joint commissioning

of *Sweet Temptations* by

reputable organisations in Vi-

enna, Frankfurt, Rotterdam,

Amsterdam and Brussels, you

may think I missed the point.

Well, let me describe this

theatrical emperor's new

clothes.



An imitation orgy? A scene from Jan Fabre's *Sweet Temptations* at QEII

Apart from the owl, the text includes frequent and detailed offers of sexual services from some of the performers, a long Shakespeare parody, Nazi speeches and complaints about the television, in a mixture of languages, mainly English and German.

Several of the women and men pretend to masturbate; one woman pretends to urinate in a pail, another has her breasts kneaded. The two wheelchair men are thrown out of their chairs and

stripped, and dance a little jig.

The speaking is often so bad that I assume this must be intended; the dancing is better but the choreography is puerile, mainly simple exercises on the spot. Intermittent music by Iggy Pop is loud and forceful.

Everything goes on for a long time; almost everything is repeated, over and over. Towards the end, everything grows louder, more obscene, sillier and more repetitious. By then, I am glad to say, my mind was numb, inoculated

against any further insult. Fabre is praised for supposedly discovering a new kind of theatrical mix: speech, movement, dance, mime, music, all splashed chaotically together. Some of us might think we have been there before, and seen it better done. Others obviously find the experience novel: too bad that so many who wanted to taste his dramatic cocktail found themselves shaken, not stirred.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Individual fusion: a portrait of the artist's sister by Shanti Panchal, 1989

TELEVISION REVIEW

Age has not withered them, much

Until quite recently, the main evidence that television programme-makers were aware of the existence of old people was the continuing employment of superannuated game-show hosts, gaudily patronising token wrinkles who were scarcely older than themselves. Twinkling or sceptical grannies, stern or indulgent grandads, and securely-invested couples enjoying their independent pensions, were to be seen in various ads, but otherwise the over-60s were invisible.

With the advent of such series as *The Last of the Summer Wine*, *The Golden Girls* and *One Foot in the Grave*, things have improved, but *Shaking the Heavens* (BBC 2) is the first documentary series of which I am aware that is devoted to "giving voice to the wisdom of years", as *Radio Times* put it. Last night's opener (of six) was *Long Distance Runners*, a spry scamper from Scotland to Wales and back, via London and a Ramada farm, in the company of an octoge-

narian marathon runner, nonagenarian milkman, septuagenarian shepherdess and other vigorous veterans. Eighty-year-old Jenny Wood-Alley has raised thousands of pounds for charity through her running, which she will continue, sanctioned or not, until she drops. The film was guided by her, via voice-over and frequent clips of her in training or competing in the London Marathon.

It was slightly coy and unembarrassed about conducting sheep-midwifery on camera, in close-up. She seemed to find giving after-lunch talks to farmers' wives more of a challenge, but one to which she set herself with the same brisk determination. There was no fake sentiment about this programme: her regrets at having neglected a personal life for the sheep's sake were simply stated and all the more convincing for their brevity.

TONY PATRICK

Was the Great War a civil war?

Catherine Milner visits a remarkable new war museum in the Somme valley

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

IF THERE is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England, it is the valley of the Somme in northern France. Almost every new village or turning in the road yields yet another neatly-mown plot and more ranks of English gravestones. Names such as Delville Wood, Thiepval, Rancourt and Albert still ring in the ears of those who have spent their entire lives trying to forget them. Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Rudyard Kipling and Rupert Brooke have immortalised the tragedy of the callow crusaders who died there. "Flowers of England" cut down before their time.

But what did the Great War mean to the Germans and French? What of their "lost generation"? This is the question posed by a new museum and research centre that opened at Péronne, in the heart of the battlefields, at the weekend. Deliberately non-partisan, it is, in the words of its curator, Hugue Hairy, "trying to make sense of the common experiences between the nations involved", rather than pointing the finger at anyone. Hairy feels the time has come for an unbiased academic appraisal of the Great War. "It is history", he says: "there are few surviving veterans of the first world war and it can thus be viewed unhampered by emotion."

But can it? One academic involved in the museum describes anti-German feelings in the north-east of France as a "time-bomb" ready to go off at the slightest provocation. This, he says, is why no major museum of this sort has been created before. Certainly physical reminders of the war are omnipresent: 17 tons of shells were picked up from fields in the area last year. Whatever the political complexities, the stated objective of the new museum, *L'Historial de la Grande Guerre*, remains the same: to see history in a new way: to see the Great War as a "European civil war", fought with equally valid arguments on each side.

Visitors to the Somme are not just tourists but pilgrims. This is reflected in the design of the new museum, which despite having the external appearance of a gun emplacement, has an aura of monastic sanctity within. It overlooks a dark and gloomy lake and adjoins an old castle keep, one of the few edifices in Péronne not to have been flattened by the war. "We did not want to



One of the "Flowers of England": a British soldier sleeps beside his rifle in a front-line trench at Thiepval in September 1916

glamorise war; we wanted to be respectful," says Dr Winter, one of the museum's academic advisers. "The problem we faced is how do you commemorate a catastrophe where nine million men died, and 30 million were wounded?"

Most startling is the way objects are displayed. "Trenches" built into the floor are occupied by "dead" soldiers — stuffed uniforms lying prone. Forlorn little mementoes such as tin cups, shaving brushes, notepads and puppets lie scattered around, as well as guns, trench-pumps and wire-cutters. Hovering above, attached to a wire, are personal souvenirs: a crucifix made out of shells in one case, a joke drawing of a portly "pal" in another. If the centre of each room represents life in the trenches, the walls are reserved for a description of life back home: armies of robust matrons making tank camouflage, military hospitals with Heath-Robinson "ossuary aids", newspapers with unflaggingly defiant headlines, and

the war posters, ironic if not mendacious, such as the one that features a smiling trooper sitting in his sunny trench, emblazoned with the words: "He's Happy and Satisfied, are You?"

But it is with the war films, Sir Henry Newbolt's "living pictures of the dead", that this museum excels. Over 30 hours of film are shown on dozens of small screens positioned round the rooms. Kitchener can be seen furiously appealing for volunteers in Trafalgar Square, faced by a sea of eagerly raised hands. Or greenhorns, boys nudging and giggling at each other as they try on their new army caps and compare their "Derby certificates" that said they were fit for war. German wives are seen stuffing flowers into the lapels of their proud, stiff-necked husbands. While screens further on show the pathetic figures of soldiers sans eyes, sans legs or arms, gibbering with shell-shock.

The ghastliness of the front-line is

left for a special film shown on the big screen of the museum cinema. It narrates the story of Harry Fellowes, a British soldier who survived the Somme by being knocked unconscious, and lying for days amongst his dead friends. Background music is provided by the shrills and swells of Britten's "War Requiem". One of the most affecting pieces of film shows soldiers standing round a mass grave, watching their friends being buried. Tight-lipped and ashen-faced, demonstrably still not injured to death, their expressions are scanned by the camera as they gently sprinkle soil over the mummified bodies that speak of the unspeakable.

One of the most moving passages is not from a soldier but from Catherine Thomas, wife of the poet Edward, describing their last night before he left for France, where he was killed three months later.

The repercussions of the first world war are still being felt in the Balkans, and this museum adds its own reminder of the incalculable misery caused by "A Call to Arms".

• *L'Historial de la Grande Guerre, Château de Péronne, Somme (010 33 2291698). Open 10am - 7pm daily.*

them, by all ranks from all nations. Apart from transcriptions from the notebooks of Charles Sorley, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, Kafka and Apollinaire, there are also simple letters of thanks for tins of corned beef and sardines from those less eminent, arresting because they are so ordinary. There are drawings too: Otto Dix's series of prints, "Der Krieg" among the most vehement: purifying faces and bomb-mangled bodies that speak of the unspeakable.

One of the most moving passages is not from a soldier but from Catherine Thomas, wife of the poet Edward, describing their last night before he left for France, where he was killed three months later.

The placid little elephant means big money on both sides of the Atlantic. Second only to Disney in the American profit stakes, Babar is currently being televised in France and England, and is approved of as "ecologically sound" in Germany — that green suit, no doubt — whilst the Scandinavians find the pacifistic pachyderm the per-

Relais & Châteaux: a magnificent Times offer

A life of luxury in France

Collect six tokens in *The Times* and stay at a top French hotel at a 30 per cent discount



a complimentary copy of the *Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992* and the corresponding European Road Map, which is valued at £7.50.

The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotels from those included in this offer, together with a detailed description of all the facilities and services offered by the hotels and restaurants within the group as a whole, including accommodation and restaurant rates and annual and weekly closing dates.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. To qualify, simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times*. Token four is published here. Further tokens will be published throughout the week and details of how to apply for your "Passport to Privilege" card will appear on Saturday, with a list of the hotels available.

Readers taking advantage of this offer will receive a "Passport to Privilege" card which, upon presentation at the hotel at the time of arrival, entitles the holder to the discounts and privileges outlined in the offer, subject to availability. In addition to a listing of the participating hotels, readers will also receive

the golf courses of Brittany to the culture and beauty of the Loire Valley. Relais & Châteaux offer hospitality at its very best. Most Relais & Châteaux hotels are to be found in unspoilt countryside locations and are renowned for their high culinary standards.

The chain offers four different categories of comfort which are recognisable by the colours of their shields. The category Green represents the standard of a pleasant and simple country residence. Blue stands for a fine comfortable house in pleasing surroundings and Yellow for the refined comfort of a superb residence, as now, was based on the famous five "Cs" of the association standing for Character, Courtesy, Calm, Charm and Cuisine.

Almost 40 years later the chain is represented in 40 nations. Of the 158 establishments in France, 42 non-seasonal hotels have been selected to offer *Times* readers this unique French experience. From a gastronomic experience in Alsace to a late season break on the Côte d'Azur, from

bacon, grilled lobster with a clove of garlic, pigeon with spices... A window permits the diners to look into the kitchen and watch their dishes being prepared if they wish. The wine is naturally Bordeaux.

The hotel is well situated for visits to the great wine châteaux of the Médoc. There are now organised tours up the Médoc, which the hotel will

know about, and one can visit the wine museum at Château Mouton-Rothschild (except in August). Also within easy reach is the more hilly wine country round St-Emilion.

Bordeaux itself is now a handsome city, with its theatre just restored to its former splendour; particularly attractive is the area of old wine-merchants' houses along the quayside.

A new vintage classic

Jean-Marie Amat's Saint-James Restaurant, at Bouliac on the edge of Bordeaux, has long been a place of pilgrimage for the lovers of good food. Since 1990 the restaurant (No. 124 in the *Relais & Château Guide*) has had a remarkable hotel to complement it: the Hauverte Hotel, designed by Jean Nouvel, the architect renowned for his Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

Jean-Marie Amat's hotel consists of four pavilions joined by a long gallery. It breathes the spirit of refined, modern luxury. In the white bedrooms, there are huge cushioned and enormous raised beds. The new restaurant, also designed by Nouvel, is in Gallo-Roman style, with beamed ceilings and Doric columns, and a fine view across to the Garonne river.

Amat's cooking is in the classic Bordelais style, lightened by the influence of nouvelle cuisine. That means

filet of eel with onion and

bacon, grilled lobster with a clove of garlic, pigeon with spices... A window permits the diners to look into the kitchen and watch their dishes being prepared if they wish. The wine is naturally Bordeaux.

The hotel is well situated for visits to the great wine châteaux of the Médoc. There are now organised tours up the Médoc, which the hotel will

know about, and one can visit the wine museum at Château Mouton-Rothschild (except in August). Also within easy reach is the more hilly wine country round St-Emilion.

Bordeaux itself is now a

handsome city, with its theatre just restored to its former

splendour; particularly attractive

is the area of old wine-merchants' houses along the

quayside.

The new restaurant, designed by

Gerard Mortier, has set about

restoring the theatre to its

central position at the festival,

appointing Peter Stein, Ger-

many's leading director, as

director of theatre. In his first

season, Stein has already

proved that he can attract the

stars to Salzburg, with Andrzej

Wojda directing a Polish clas-

sic at the Landestheater and

many of Germany's top actors

appearing in Stein's own pro-

duction of *Julius Caesar* at the

Felsenreitschule.

The Felsenreitschule is an

old riding school with a huge

playing area nearly fifty met-

res wide, bordered by three

tiered arches carved out of the

side of a mountain and form-

ing the finest open air theatre

north of the Alps. *Julius*

Caesar is played in daylight,

with a canvas roof drawn

across for night scenes lit by

torches and braziers. Two

hundred extras have been

tired to play a mob dressed in

blue overalls and red head-

bands and to form the oppo-

sing armies in Rome's civil war,

while the principal actors wear

togas over modern suits.

Much of the political rad-

icalism which characterised

Stein's work in the 1970s and

1980s has now disappeared

and his recent productions

have been highly detailed,

beautifully crafted works with

little overt political content.

So it is with *Julius Caesar*.

The actors are magnificent,

notably Thomas Holfmann

as a stooping, brooding Brus-

tos, and the crowd scenes are

breathtaking. But ultimately it

is almost too beautiful, and a

collection at the interval for

victims of the civil war in

Yugoslavia reinforces the

feeling that Stein could have done

more with this play, if he had

paid less attention to marshalling his stage armies and more to

the world around him.

If the theatre in Western

Europe has often chosen a

political role, the Eastern Eu-

ropean theatre has had its

political function thrust upon

it, and Polish director Andrzej

Wojda is pleased to be rid of it

now that communism has

collapsed. Stanislaw Wyspianski's play *Wesele* (The Wedding), written in 1901, is

however, a highly political

one. Based on an actual wed-

ding between a poet friend of

Wyspianski's and a peasant

Wesele explores — in

more than a hundred scenes —

the relationship between peo-

ple and intellectuals in Po-

land's national struggle.

Andrzej Wojda was himself

part of the historic Polish

coalition of peasants and intel-

lectuals which formed Solidar-

ity in the 1980s and it is not

hard to imagine the plays

appeal in Poland. It failed to

make an impact in Salzburg,

partly because its concerns are

Elvis is in town with his author

Can any serious investigator honestly believe Presley is still alive? Jon Stock meets a woman who apparently does



Jesse Jackson, left, Muhammad Ali and guess who in 1984

It would be reassuring to report that Gail Brewer-Giorgio's life changed dramatically on the day she received a telephone call from Elvis Presley. Most lives would, particularly if he decides to ring in 1988, 11 years after he died. But Mrs Brewer-Giorgio seems to have taken it all in her stride.

"It was 2.30 in the morning," she explains, in a Deep South drawl. "My husband passed me the phone and asked what was going on. The man on the phone said that Elvis would be ringing me in 20 minutes. I was very cynical — I had gotten joke calls before saying 'Hey baby, this is Elvis' — but I thought I can't afford not to take this call."

"My biggest worry was not being able to find a tape recorder. But I found one and, sure enough, Elvis rang me 20 minutes later. I asked him a question that I knew an impersonator would not be able to answer, and we talked for 45 minutes. We talked about his daughter, Lisa Marie. He was in a state of shock about her wedding, which he had attended, along with Priscilla. He was also finding it strange that he was going to be a grandfather. The news of Lisa's pregnancy had not been made public when he called me."

Ever since the news of Presley's death was beamed around the world on the afternoon of August 16, 1977, Mrs Brewer-Giorgio has been saying, in all seriousness, that he is still alive. She is not alone. There are a number of "serious" writers in the United States who have tried to prove, through meticulous research rather than sensationalist speculation, that Presley's death was faked. Mrs Brewer-Giorgio claims to have studied more than 40,000 official documents on the subject.

As the fifteenth anniversary of his death approaches, the "Presley is

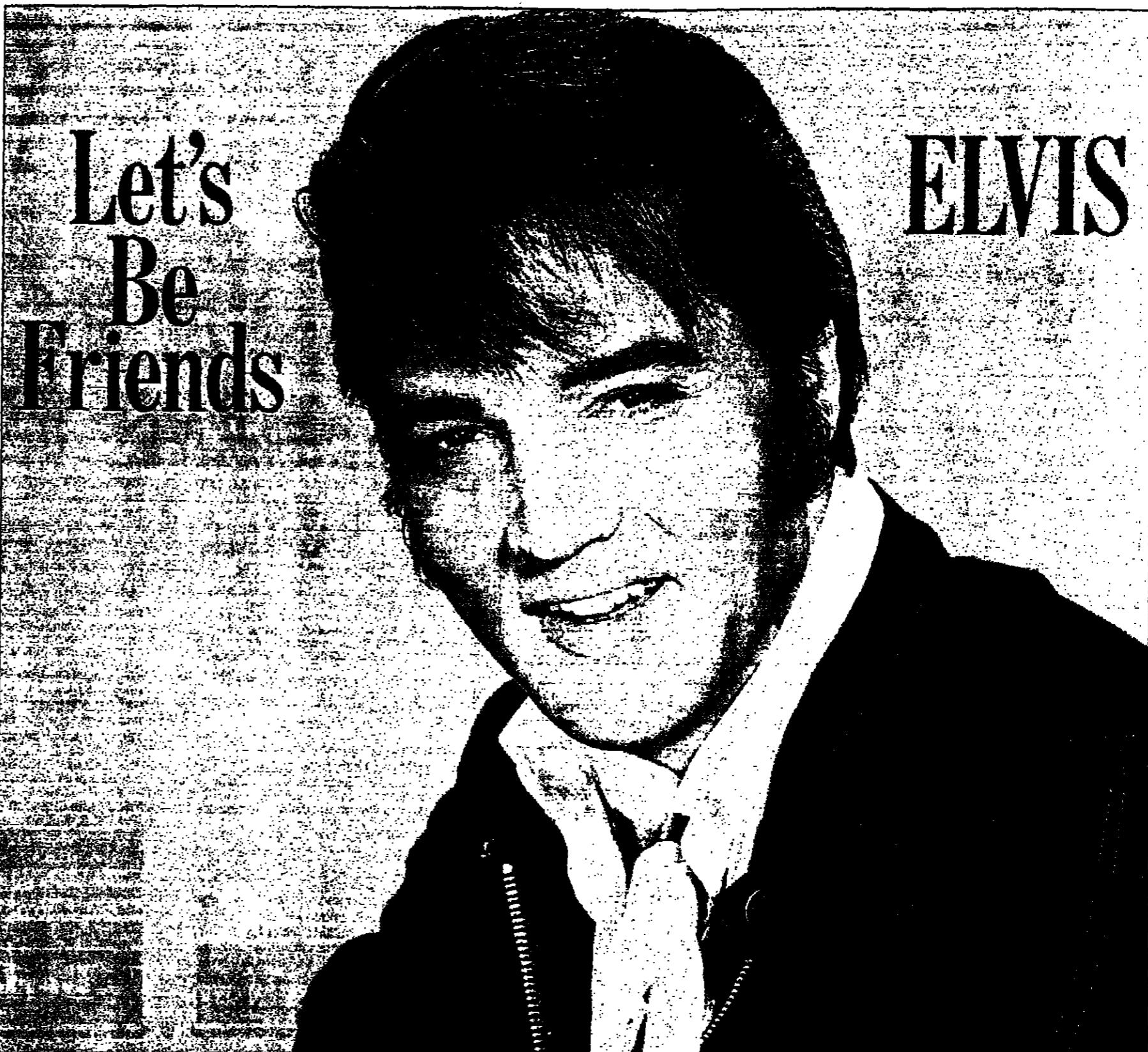
Alive" industry shows no sign of abating. In 1990, two surveys revealed that between 84 and 86 per cent of Americans believe Presley is alive. Until the end of last year, Ladbrokes in the UK was offering odds of only 250-1 that he is still alive. Ladbrokes closed bets when Presley appeared on an American stamp, an honour reserved solely for dead people.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio is visiting England to promote *The Elvis Files*, a video and book in which she repeats her unlikely claim. Preposterous maybe, but it evidently touches a nerve. One needs only to read the numerous articles in certain classes of tabloid to know that Presley is, in fact, working in a chip shop in Croydon.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio's first book on the subject, *Is Elvis Alive?*, has so far sold three million copies worldwide. The *Elvis Files* paperback versions of which included a cassette of her alleged telephone conversation with Presley, and *Operation Fountain Pen*, a third book due out next year, are likely to do equally well, thanks to a combination of wishful thinking on the part of Presley's fans, and the public's insatiable desire for wild conspiracy theories.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio certainly excels in this department. She says the former king of rock 'n' roll is living anonymously somewhere in the US as part of a Federal witness protection programme, having got caught up in a multi-million-dollar drugs and fraud cartel involving the Gambino family and General Noriega. Presley was persuaded by the FBI to testify against several of the nastier members of the cartel, and, fearing for his life, duly went into hiding...

Simple, really. And there was I thinking Elvis was an overweight pop star who overdosed on drugs. However, Mrs Brewer-Giorgio



An album with a message: Gail Brewer-Giorgio says that Elvis approached her after the wedding of Lisa Marie, his daughter, and that they have spoken on the telephone

does not come across as mad when you meet her. Nor does she appear to be solely interested in money, despite the commercial potential of "Elvis is Alive" stories.

She first became interested in Presley's death when a novel she wrote shortly afterwards was mysteriously pulled from bookshops. *Orion* was about a rock star who died his death. She received \$60,000 for the book and it duly appeared in bookshops. She then started hearing reports from shop owners that it was being removed from the shelves by men in sharp suits. The distributors later admitted they had been told to "hang it out to dry".

The author is 53 and has been happily married, to Carmine, a wealthy computer consultant, since 1959. "I am very fortunate. I have a husband who makes a really good living, too," she says. "My lifestyle has not changed at all since writing about Elvis." The couple live on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia, and have three children — a

daughter, aged 22, and two sons, aged 28 and 30 — who fervently believe in their mother's work.

"They also make jokes about it," she says. "When I lose the car keys they all say, 'Ah Mom, you can find Elvis all right, but you can't find your car keys. You're a great investigator'."

For 30 years, she has earned an eclectic living as a freelance journalist (for the *Marietta Journal*), a broadcaster (her own phone-in show on Radio WRNG in Atlanta), a novelist (*Orion*), a scriptwriter (networked TV sitcom) and an illustrator (forthcoming children's book).

She claims she gets no funny looks from her neighbours in Gainesville, despite her eccentric stance on Presley. In the flesh, she is a level-headed, articulate, intelligent woman, full of maternal savvy. So, why on earth does she set herself up for such public ridicule? "More people are afraid for me

than I am," she says. "I am too old now. My children give me worse trouble. The hassle I get for writing about Elvis is nothing compared with them. If you take on a controversial subject like Marilyn Monroe or JFK, it is inevitable. It is all part of getting into the heat of the situation."

Her introduction to the British media has certainly been heated. The first people to ring her hotel when she arrived last week were from the *Daily Sport*, which wanted an exclusive. Denied one by her publicist, the *Sport* offered a £2 million reward for anybody who could find Presley, and duly poured scorn on her claims.

Her first live interview on television, for *The Richard and Judy Show*, was equally exorcising: the presenters and audience ripped her apart, enjoying a prolonged belly laugh at her expense. But it did not seem to bother Mrs Brewer-Giorgio, who has endured much worse at the hands of Oprah Winfrey.

"I got the idea that they were playing it safe. It is so much easier that way. Because I am telling such a ludicrous story, they do not want to go out on a limb, so they make fun of it. I don't mind."

On the day I spent with Mrs Brewer-Giorgio, she conducted an exhausting round of interviews with impressive zeal. Whether it was for Derek Jameson on Radio 2 or for a hostile Elvis Presley fan club magazine, she remained inquisitive, inviolate. It was alarmingly easy to get caught up in her enthusiasm, so easy, in fact, that I had to keep ringing up friends to tell them whom I was interviewing and what she had to say about Presley. The sound of unrestrained laughter brought me back to earth.

The long day finished with an interview by Bob Friend on *Sky News* (Skyline). Relaxed before hand, she wiped away some of Friend's cynicism with a broad smile, but Atlanta time was obviously catching up on her. Favourite lines such as "Elvis put his life on here first."

the line for his country", and "You know, I wasn't a fan. I haven't even seen one of his movies", sounded well worn and weary. Friend wound up the interview by saying: "And tomorrow, Joseph Crippen, alive and well in Tunbridge Wells."

At this sort of moment you hope the mask might drop and she will admit to it all being an extravagant hoax. Nobody could be dedicated to so public an immolation of her integrity.

Sadly, she is. "Bob was determined to have the last laugh," she says, bounding back. "But he didn't. You would be surprised about the people watching at home. Never underestimate the public."

As if to prove her point, she takes me into her confidence for the first time that day: "If something happens next January, give me a call." She disappears before I can ask what she means. Her publicist tells me later that she thinks Presley is coming back in 1993. Oh dear, she doesn't smile. You read about it here first.

After customers complain about rude and incompetent shop assistants, a spirited counter attack

Say thank you, make our day

The worst thing about customers, according to Rachel Sims who works in Miss Selfridge, is when they ask an assistant who has just come back from the stockroom for a particular garment. "You tell them it's not in stock; they insist you go and check, and think you're being lazy and awkward when you say you know it's not in stock. You then find yourself going to the stockroom just so they can see you doing it."

The worst thing about shop assistants in supermarkets, department stores and boutiques, according to customers who took part in a recent Mori poll, is that they are "slow, unhelpful, uninterested and rude". The Mori poll, conducted for the National Consumer Council, also suggested that what two out of five shoppers hate most about high street stores are the staff.

There has been, as the *Daily Mail* columnist Keith Waterhouse's fictional shop assistants Sharon and Tracy pointed out, "Not a blind duckbird about what shop assistants fink of the customers".

A brief poll among female shop assistants — most assistants are female — many of whom were immersed in the summer sales, suggests that the response from the real shop floor regarding customers is robust. "They're getting ruder, much ruder," Valerie Forster, a Harrods sales consultant, said. She trained in dress fitting in the days when buying a frock was a day-long affair, including snappy and sandwiches. "Some customers get really ruffled, specially if they've had problems parking. But if a customer is upset, I try



At your service: assistant Lynne Cannonier with a customer at Harrods

to find out why and calm her down. Because we want to keep her, we can't say go elsewhere; although you feel like saying that, quite a lot. You just have to bite your tongue."

At Miss Selfridge's flagship store in Duke Street, London, which serves a couple of thousand customers each day, Melanie Smith, an employee for three years, says it is long queues at tills that make customers angry. "You have to learn how to calm them down, even though you're going as fast as you can. People are always pushing in and making comments. Some get fed up with waiting, simply drop everything on the floor and walk out."

Possibly the area most likely to bring on a breakdown for employees is in the communal changing rooms, at Miss Selfridge, where it is normal for 60 customers to be chang-

ing under the eye of one member of staff, life can become pressurised.

"You get a huge bundle of clothes thrown back at you," Miss Sims said, "and you have to hang them all back up again. Once I spent all day putting the clothes back onto two rails. All day. That was all I did, just pick up the same clothes. People won't bother to bring their hangers back out, even if we ask them nicely, and we can't look after each person separately."

Margaret Sharkey, the manager of the Monsoon branch in Richmond, southwest London, is very familiar with customer anger. "On the whole, the public are OK. Sometimes they shout at me in the shop; last Saturday a woman was screaming at me from the back of the queue. She was actually near to tears.

it turned out she felt bad about her body, how she looked and so on."

"I spoke to her quietly and sympathetically and said she could try on the clothes in the privacy of her own bedroom, and that she could bring them straight back if she didn't like them. The thing is not to respond in a loud or aggressive way."

As manager, Ms Sharkey's is a highly responsible job, yet she finds that people behave as if she is "just a shop girl".

"The big problem in retail is the public's attitude. They think that because we are in a service industry, we therefore have a lower intellect," said Ms Sharkey, whose shop recently achieved Monsoon's highest annual turnover for a single branch. "People are not usually insulting, but the way they speak to me is very patronising. When customers ring up with an enquiry, some

hang up when they've got an answer, without saying thanks in the shop, they turn their back on you when they've got the information they need."

The Mori poll's suggestion that shoppers think staff know little or nothing about their stock was met with amazement. "I've been working in food halls and horticulture at Marks for over five years," said Mandy Mahoney, from the Marks & Spencer store in Marble Arch, London. "I've specialised in my field; customers come in and think we just go to any old area each morning."

Ms Mahoney can not only advise you on how to water your fuchsia, she can give you dietary information, recipes for dinner parties and answer queries on vegetarianism. She also helps to control the stock, removes any food she feels is below quality from the shelves, and places orders.

Her colleague Mercedes Garcia, who works on footwear, has 55 different brands of hosiery in her mind at any one time and wears a badge indicating she is fluent in five languages.

The most heartfelt plea for understanding came from the Miss Selfridge assistants, who seem most often on the receiving end of life's hurled pile of clothes. "The old cliché of the customer being always right is what gives them airs and graces," Julie Maynard said. "People just shout and forget their manners. They forget you are a person, sometimes; that we are professionals, too. When you have a customer who turns round and thanks you, it makes my day."

TOMORROW

"I had barely started writing from Gascony when one of my friends wrote a piece about loud-mouthed journalists intent on making Gascony fashionable." Barry Turner on writing, when in France

SUMMER ALL-IN-CAR RETURN FARES FROM £176.

Return ferry crossings for car and up to 5 passengers	Low prices	Mid prices	Peak prices
Dover - Dunkerque / Calais - Dover	-	-	£228
Dover - Calais	£198	£258	£288
Newhaven - Dieppe	£196	£246	£306
Southampton - Cherbourg	£178	£208	£298
Harwich - Hook of Holland	£176*	-	£228+
Stranraer - Larne	£208	£230	£260

*All-in-Car Bonus Sunday - Thursday Day crossings only. FOR FULL DETAILS OF WHEN THESE PRICES APPLY SEE SEALINK STENA LINES FERRY AND LEISURE GUIDE 1992.

THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE OUTWARD FROM THE U.K.

Save £55 - SPECIAL OFFER TO IRELAND*

Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire

Fishguard - Rosslare

- Travel out and back on any Tuesday for only £245.

- Travel between 21st July and 18th Aug '92 only.

- Return ferry for a car and up to 5 passengers.

£245

SPECIAL OFFER APPLIES TO THE ROUTES AND FARES AS SPECIFIED ABOVE AND IS ONLY ON FUTURE BOOKINGS AND CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR DISCOUNT. THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE OUTWARD FROM THE U.K.

BOOK NOW ON 0233 647047

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR MOTORING ORGANISATION

SEALINK STENA LINE

Growing old gracefully, together

Rachel Kelly
reports on two experimental homes that can be adapted to suit a lifetime of family needs

Are you male, fit, aged between 18 and 40, and of medium height? Do you have good sight, good hearing and are you right-handed? If so, lucky you to be part of the 18 per cent of the population for whom British houses are designed. If not, welcome to "lifetime" housing.

The term is probably unfamiliar, but is unlikely to remain so. A small but influential vanguard of architects and academics, led by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which funds research into housing and social policy, have plans for lifetime housing. It is, they say, the housing of the future. It could, they say, revolutionise the way we look at our homes. It should, they say, be widely adopted throughout the country.

But what, you may ask, exactly is a lifetime house? Just that: a home for life, designed to be lived in from the first flush of flexible youth to the more arduous years of old age, in short, from cradle to grave. Along the way, the house can be adapted, altered, changed, rejigged, modified and amended. Houses will no longer be built with what Richard Best, director of the foundation, describes as the "ludicrous assumption" that everyone remains fit and able for the whole of his or her life.

There are about 4.25 million adults and 100,000 children with mobility impairment in Britain, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which is more than the combined population of Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The number of people with special needs is rising because of an aging population, medi-



Streets ahead: New Earswick, North Yorkshire, where the first of the "lifetime" homes, right, is being built

cal advances which help more people to survive accidents and disease, and the development of care in the community.

Although lifetime houses will cater for the disabled, such homes should not be tarred with the "special needs" brush. "Lifetime homes are intended for all households. These homes cope with the ups and downs of every lifetime, for everyone," Mr Best says.

"The house is fine if a teenager breaks a leg and is in a wheelchair for a few weeks. We can all entertain disabled friends and relatives at home. The extra-space standards help parents with baby-buggies and shopping, and give everyone the space to breathe. If we become frail in old age, we can manage easily."

The disabled are not forgotten, however. "The lifetime design means that with the minimum of cost and effort they can be adapted later, for example with a stair-lift."

Lifetime homes are also what Mr Best calls "visible". "Without any adaptations, visitors with disabilities, includ-

ing a wheelchair-user, can get into the home and move around easily," he says.

This is not an entirely new idea: the Scots thought of it first. Six years ago, the Edinburgh Housing Association in Edinburgh embraced the idea that its new developments should be "barrier free", where special consideration has been

shifted the emphasis from homes for the disabled to homes for everyone. "Our involvement arose out of a conference we held last year called Tomorrow's New Communities, which concentrated our minds on the idea of lifetime homes," Brian Jardine, deputy director of the foundation, says. "While the idea of lifetime housing has been on the minds of a lot of people involved with housing associations, the idea has not been applied to the whole of the housing stock. This is a message for speculative builders as much as for housing associations and the government."

The first two lifetime homes are under construction on the outskirts of York at the foundation's New Earswick village, begun in 1902 by Joseph Rowntree himself, to experiment with new ideas in housing. They will be completed early next year.

The houses will be four-bedroomed and semi-detached, but with more space than the average home built

by the foundation for housing associations. One of the most common complaints about modern houses, according to the Building Research Establishment, a government-funded research and planning group, is that they are too small.

A lifetime one-bedroomed flat would be only a fraction bigger (about 2.5 square metres), but a lifetime four-bedroomed house would be substantially so, with 6.5 to 7.2 square metres extra. Families of all ages will like the spaciousness. "This will give everyone the space that is increasingly lacking in the ever-smaller new homes of today," Mr Best says.

The front-door approach will be level or gently sloping, allowing wheelchair access. The thresholds to the entrance will be flush and the front door wider than normal. Inside, there is room for a simple vertical lift to be built between floors. The interior doors are wide and there is a toilet on the ground floor, which could be converted into a shower if

need be (smaller new homes tend to be built with the bathroom upstairs). The kitchen units are designed so that their heights can be adjusted if necessary.

The able-bodied family has much to gain from this design: so have the disabled, who no longer need to be segregated. "We want to get rid of the idea

of 'special accommodation,'" Mr Jardine says. "There is a cost to building larger homes, to putting in wider doors and staircases, to enhanced standards within the dwelling, and to pricier building plots because of the extra space. Research by the Edinburgh office of architects Campbell & Arnott for the building directorate of the Scottish Office, to be published

later this year, will give a precise indication, but the foundation estimates that on average a lifetime home would cost between £7,500 and £10,000 on top of the normal £65,000 building costs.

"It would depend on the size of house you were building and the density of the development," Mr Jardine says. "You may not be able to build as many lifetime homes because they need more space in between them. And the average home has a two-and-a-half metre parking space, whereas ours will have three-and-a-half metres to allow for a wheelchair."

The average house-buyer will doubtless balk but there are savings. Later adaptations will cost less and be quicker to do, and if people can live in their own homes for longer, rather than having to move into special-care units in later life, there will be social services savings which could be ploughed back into housing by government.

There is nothing to do about the existing housing stock, but new homes could become lifetime ones. The simplest way to ensure their arrival is new building regulations for all builders. The environment department is researching new draft regulations on housing accessibility, to be published at the end of 1993 and to come into force six months later, but the fear is that their recommendations will incorporate only a few of the foundation's plans.

Private house-builders are unlikely to experiment until regulations force them to. Lifetime homes cost more and, as yet, their advantages do not, in the public mind, outweigh their costs. They should do. The mania for moving house will soon be seen as one of the odder features of the 1980s. For families, it is more enriching, and better for children, to shape the home to changing needs, thereby retaining one's neighbours and community. Lifetime homes provide that opportunity. Housing associations with government subsidy and a duty to house a wide social group must lead in building them until the private sector catches on.

A strict code of conduct will soon govern the agents who look after property

Managing the managers



Sir George: "strong marketing is vital"

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable lessees to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said.

Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

071-481 4481

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 9313
071-782 7828V
Cat
visi
nev
in th

THE TI
PASSE
FRAN

Secretary to the managing director

MEPC plc is one of the largest international property companies. The Group's business is commercial property investment, property management of its portfolio holdings (exceeding £3.5 billion), and property development.

An exceptional opportunity has arisen to join the Company at a senior level in the position of personal secretary to the managing director, based at the Company's Head Office in St James's Square, London SW1.

The ideal candidate is likely to have gained considerable secretarial experience at main board director level within a major public limited company. Impeccable PA/secretarial and communication skills are required, including shorthand and Wordperfect 5.1. The preferred age range is 35-45.

In addition to a competitive salary, MEPC offers an attractive range of benefits (some subject to qualifying periods) including free luncheon facilities, medical insurance and pension scheme membership, interest-free season ticket loan, house or home improvement loan and profit-sharing.

Applications are invited in writing with detailed CV to: Graham Coulson, Personnel Manager, MEPC plc, 12 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LB.

MEPC

PA TO COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

Central London

Media & Airtime Sales, one of the UK's leading companies selling Television and Radio Advertising have a vacancy for a personal secretary to the Commercial Director, whose main areas of responsibility include Finance, Computer Services, Administration and Personnel.

Applicants should be educated to "A" level standard and be aged in their early thirties. A combination of excellent office skills and initiative across a wide range of activities is essential. In return we offer a good salary and pleasant working conditions.

Please send full CV or telephone for an application form to: Nigel Cannon - Personnel Manager, Media & Airtime Sales Limited, 32 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Tel: 071-242 1866.

(We are an equal opportunities employer)

NO AGENCIES



MEDIA & AIRTIME SALES LTD

the London Wilshire

Secretaries to Executive Level

The London Wilshire, the capital's most spectacular new hotel, will open in December 1992, under the management of Regent International Hotels. The 309 bedroomed luxury property is a restoration of the former Great Central Hotel, adjacent to Marylebone Station. Applications are now sought from experienced secretaries, preferably with a hotel background and knowledge of both Word Perfect & Lotus, to join a growing committed team. Excellent communications and administration skills are essential. A good salary and benefit package is offered for these positions.

Suitable qualified applicants should send their CV and covering letter to: John Waring, Director of Personnel, The London Wilshire Pre-Opening Office, 17 Duxell Square, London NW1 6QB. (No Agencies)

SENIOR SECRETARY/PA

Bright senior A level standard secretary, required for busy Director of West End property group. At least four years' secretarial experience, shorthand and fast, accurate WP skills (50 wpm+) important; Wordstar 7 experience advantageous but not essential. The ideal candidate should be used to working in an organised manner for a number of directors/executives under pressure and meeting deadlines.

This demanding position includes general secretarial and other administrative work, with other responsibilities dependent on ability. The candidate must be able to follow procedures, although initiative to improve existing systems would be encouraged, and be happy working as part of a team. Salary will be appropriate to age and experience.

Please send CV with covering letter including recent salary history to Box No 9647.

No agencies please.

PARIS!

Busy American Law Firm in Paris seeks an evening Secretary with basic knowledge of French but excellent English (A Level standard). Keyboard skills and knowledge of WordPerfect essential, minimum 2 years' Law Office experience a plus.

(No Agencies)

PLEASE CALL: 071 329 0779 and ask for JULIE CRABBE

P.A. SECRETARY
to £19,000

The Advertising sales subsidiary of this successful Publishing Group is seeking a top class P.A. with full responsibility for their M.D. Age 25-30. Complete travel expenses & responsibility guaranteed.

Telephone 071 436 5110.

Detain Recruitment Services.

Fax 071 323 0388.

PA/SECRETARY
SALES & MARKETING

£15,000

MD in Publishing, advertising, organisational, WordPerfect, 50 wpm, etc.

Experience in sales, marketing, etc.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

Good communication skills.

Good presentation skills.

Good shorthand and word processing skills.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational skills.

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (99230)
6.30 BBC Breakfast: News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laure Mayer and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (53295018)
8.55 Olympic Grandstand presented by Steve Rider: Athletics: 9.00 the first round of the women's 1,500m; 9.45 the first round of the women's 100m hurdles. Plus the start of the decathlon and the final of the women's table tennis singles. Includes *News and Weather* at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (8523018) 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (51919658)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (29308)
1.30 Weather (Ceefax) (43536124) 1.50 Eldorado (r). (Ceefax) (61475492)
2.20 Olympic Grandstand. Includes at 3.00 *Baseball*; 4.00 *Hockey*; the first men's semi-final; *Athletics*: 5.00 women's 100m hurdles, second round; 5.30 men's 200m semi-finals; 5.35 men's long jump qualifiers; 5.50 women's 200m semi-finals (25940)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (Ceefax) Weather (376)
6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (308). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster Eldorado. (Ceefax) (51501)
7.30 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. *Athletics*: 7.35 women's 400m final; 7.50 men's 400m final; 8.05 men's 800m final; 8.25 decathlon, the 400m. Plus news of the second men's hockey semi-final (25940)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) *Regional News and Weather* (1582)
9.30 *Olympics Today*. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from the day's competitions which included five gold medals in track and field events (58673)



Villain of the piece: John Landis, second left (11.00pm)

11.00 Film: *Into the Night* (1985)
● CHOICE: A spoof thriller by John Landis of *Trading Places* features the lanky Jeff Goldblum with Michelle Pfeiffer lands him in a devilishly complicated plot involving French and Iranian murder pangs and a bunch of emeralds. Along the way the film offers some pointed social satire and darker moments are mixed with broad comedy. Beyond that, *Into the Night* is an excuse for a riot of Hollywood in-jokes, parodying films and film styles and offering cameo roles to a host of Landis's fellow directors. Look carefully and you may catch a glimpse of anyone from David Cronenberg to Roger Vadim and Don Siegel. Landis himself plays the crazed villain. Film buffs will enjoy it enormously. Others, while missing the more specialised references, should relish the pace and energy (910766)
12.50am Weather (8538167)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a few key presses. Call 0898 121204 (Calls charged at 45p per minute, 36p off peak, 30p on Sun, 20p on Sat) for more details. Call VideoPlus on 0898 121204 (Calls charged at 45p per minute, 36p off peak, 30p on Sun, 20p on Sat) for more details. VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+™, PlusCode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

6.45 Open University: *Images and Innovation* (5915105). Ends at 7.10
8.00 Breakfast News (3701202)
8.15 England (b/w). Fisherman photographed between 1928 and 1934 (r) (1252747) 8.20 Army Lives. Series on British army life (r). (Ceefax) (6124563) 8.50 *Holiday Outings*. Kathy Taylor takes a cookery course in Co Cork (r) (4159259)
9.00 Defenders of the Earth (r). (Ceefax) (7454650) 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* (r) (5) (7454037) 9.55 *Playdays* (r) (5) (6026872) 10.15 *Double Dare* (r) (5) (6026873) 10.35 *The O-Zone* (3) (5681914)
10.50 Film: *The History of Mr Polly* (1945, b/w) starring John Mills and Sally Ann Howes. Big time in the life of H.G. Wells's novel about a bricklayer's wife who decides to break free from his domineering spouse and seek happiness elsewhere. Directed by Anthony Powell (60650124)
12.25 After Hours. Entertainment magazine (5621785) 12.45 *Henry's Car* (r) (6039051) 12.50 *Fireman Sam* (1) (6038876)
1.00 Olympic Grandstand. Tennis: the women's singles semi-finals and *Canoeing*: the 18km semi-finals (2409921)
2.20 First Eleven. Fredric Raphael visits Constable country (r) (43789056) 2.35 *Country File* (r) (6026979)
3.00 News and weather (4046657) followed by *The Ship That Never Sailed*. The salvaging of a 14th-century German wreck (r) (6251940) 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather (6655853)
4.00 Cartoon (5975630) 4.10 *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* (r) (5) (112124) 4.35 *Tricky Business*. Children's comedy (r) (6763765) 5.00 *Newround* (5663476) 5.10 *Five Children and It*. Part three, (or 50) (r). (Ceefax) (5) (7070383)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax) (50215)
6.00 Olympic Grandstand. Athletics: 6.15 men's 400m semi-finals; 6.30 men's discus final; 6.40 women's 400m hurdles final; 7.00 men's 3,000m steeplechase semi-finals (56501)

7.30 *DFB's Rough Guide to Careers Update*. Design (349940)
8.10 *States of Mind*.
● CHOICE: This latest study of American angst comes from West Virginia and focuses on the Smith family as it celebrates Thanksgiving. The Smiths are traditionalists and do not like the way the country is going. "I can see the whole nation sliding and it bothers me," says state trooper Larry Smith as he rattles off a gloomy catalogue of drugs, violence, corruption and unemployment. He blames Dr Spock for telling Americans they should not discipline their children. His wife feels that the awful prophecies of the Book of Revelation are coming true. His father is a born-again Christian who donates \$40 a month to religious causes. Paul Watson's film intercuts this litany of disenchantment with the upbeat message of television, as game shows, commercials and evangelists belt out their invitations to a heaven on earth. (Ceefax) (247485)

9.00 Olympic Grandstand. Athletics: the first round of the men's 5,000m (5124)



A puzzling case: Miguel Sandoval and Peter Boyle (9.30pm)

9.30 ScreenPlay: *Death and the Compass*.

● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Movedirome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically flamboyant drama shot on location in Mexico. Intriguingly complex or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view, it is the tale of a detective (played by an Al Capone set and vivid blue suit) by Peter Boyle trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Ceefax) (50211)

10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (693124)

11.15 *Antony Holden* On *Police*. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513365)

11.45 *Bloodied Sights*. The new Sir James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering building (564495) 11.55 *Weather* (449747)

12.00 Open University: *Social Science — Regions Apart*. (5621490). Ends at 12.55am

Basketball player has epilepsy (32888)

1.00pm *West End Gazette* (5621872) 8.30 *Nightline* (5621873) 8.50 *Super Trax* (485822) 10.30 *Stretch* (23892) 10.50 *Superb* (5621874) 10.55 *Superb* (5621875) 11.45 *Business Report* (2965582) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (57616) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (18495) 2.30 *Nightline* (407859) 3.30 *Our World* (53232) 3.45 *Face to Face* (74765) 5.00 *British Baker* plots her revenge (41495) 6.00 *London Eye* (5621876) 6.30 *Newsnight* (5621877) 6.45 *Evening Standard* (5621878) 7.00 *Evening Standard* (5621879)

7.15 *Killer* (1983) 7.30 *Two Children* (5621880) 8.00 *Abbey Love* (1989); A teenager finds romance (74577). Ends at 6.00

7.30 *Screenplay*: *Death and the Compass*.

● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Movedirome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically flamboyant drama shot on location in Mexico. Intriguingly complex or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view, it is the tale of a detective (played by an Al Capone set and vivid blue suit) by Peter Boyle trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Ceefax) (50211)

10.30 *Newsnight with Sue Cameron* (693124)

11.15 *Antony Holden* On *Police*. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513365)

11.45 *Bloodied Sights*. The new Sir James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering building (564495) 11.55 *Weather* (449747)

12.00 Open University: *Social Science — Regions Apart*. (5621490). Ends at 12.55am

Basketball player has epilepsy (32888)

1.00pm *West End Gazette* (5621872) 8.30 *Nightline* (5621873) 8.50 *Super Trax* (485822) 10.30 *Stretch* (23892) 10.50 *Superb* (5621874) 10.55 *Superb* (5621875) 11.45 *Business Report* (2965582) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (57616) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (18495) 2.30 *Nightline* (407859) 3.30 *Our World* (53232) 3.45 *Face to Face* (74765) 5.00 *British Baker* plots her revenge (41495) 6.00 *London Eye* (5621876) 6.30 *Newsnight* (5621877) 6.45 *Evening Standard* (5621878) 7.00 *Evening Standard* (5621879)

7.15 *Killer* (1983) 7.30 *Two Children* (5621880) 8.00 *Abbey Love* (1989); A teenager finds romance (74577). Ends at 6.00

7.30 *Screenplay*: *Death and the Compass*.

● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Movedirome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically flamboyant drama shot on location in Mexico. Intriguingly complex or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view, it is the tale of a detective (played by an Al Capone set and vivid blue suit) by Peter Boyle trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Ceefax) (50211)

10.30 *Newsnight with Sue Cameron* (693124)

11.15 *Antony Holden* On *Police*. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513365)

11.45 *Bloodied Sights*. The new Sir James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering building (564495) 11.55 *Weather* (449747)

12.00 Open University: *Social Science — Regions Apart*. (5621490). Ends at 12.55am

Basketball player has epilepsy (32888)

1.00pm *West End Gazette* (5621872) 8.30 *Nightline* (5621873) 8.50 *Super Trax* (485822) 10.30 *Stretch* (23892) 10.50 *Superb* (5621874) 10.55 *Superb* (5621875) 11.45 *Business Report* (2965582) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (57616) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (18495) 2.30 *Nightline* (407859) 3.30 *Our World* (53232) 3.45 *Face to Face* (74765) 5.00 *British Baker* plots her revenge (41495) 6.00 *London Eye* (5621876) 6.30 *Newsnight* (5621877) 6.45 *Evening Standard* (5621878) 7.00 *Evening Standard* (5621879)

7.15 *Killer* (1983) 7.30 *Two Children* (5621880) 8.00 *Abbey Love* (1989); A teenager finds romance (74577). Ends at 6.00

7.30 *Screenplay*: *Death and the Compass*.

● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Movedirome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically flamboyant drama shot on location in Mexico. Intriguingly complex or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view, it is the tale of a detective (played by an Al Capone set and vivid blue suit) by Peter Boyle trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Ceefax) (50211)

10.30 *Newsnight with Sue Cameron* (693124)

11.15 *Antony Holden* On *Police*. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513365)

11.45 *Bloodied Sights*. The new Sir James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering building (564495) 11.55 *Weather* (449747)

12.00 Open University: *Social Science — Regions Apart*. (5621490). Ends at 12.55am

Basketball player has epilepsy (32888)

1.00pm *West End Gazette* (5621872) 8.30 *Nightline* (5621873) 8.50 *Super Trax* (485822) 10.30 *Stretch* (23892) 10.50 *Superb* (5621874) 10.55 *Superb* (5621875) 11.45 *Business Report* (2965582) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (57616) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (18495) 2.30 *Nightline* (407859) 3.30 *Our World* (53232) 3.45 *Face to Face* (74765) 5.00 *British Baker* plots her revenge (41495) 6.00 *London Eye* (5621876) 6.30 *Newsnight* (5621877) 6.45 *Evening Standard* (5621878) 7.00 *Evening Standard* (5621879)

7.15 *Killer* (1983) 7.30 *Two Children* (5621880) 8.00 *Abbey Love* (1989); A teenager finds romance (74577). Ends at 6.00

7.30 *Screenplay*: *Death and the Compass*.

● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Movedirome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically flamboyant drama shot on location in Mexico. Intriguingly complex or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view, it is the tale of a detective (played by an Al Capone set and vivid blue suit) by Peter Boyle trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Ceefax) (50211)

10.30 *Newsnight with Sue Cameron* (693124)

11.15 *Antony Holden* On *Police*. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513365)

11.45 *Bloodied Sights*. The new